S

S , s /es/ **S's, s's** *or* **Ss, ss** the 19th letter of the English alphabet

S *written abbrev. for:* south(ern)

-'s[1] /ɪz, s/ *short for:* **1** is: *Father's here.* | *What's that?* **2** has: *Mother's gone out.* | *It's got six legs.* **3** *nonstandard (in questions after* **who, what, when,** etc.) does: *How's he plan to do it?* —compare -'D (2) **4** us (only in the phrase **let's**)

-'s[2] **1** (forms the possessive case of singular nouns and of plural nouns that do not end in *-s*): *the dog's bone* | *yesterday's lesson* | *the children's bedroom* —see OF (USAGE) **2** *esp. BrE* (forms a word for a shop or someone's home): *I bought it at the baker's.* (=at the baker's shop) | *I met him at Mary's.* (=at Mary's house)

-s' (forms the possessive case of most [C] nouns in the plural): *a boys' club* —see OF (USAGE)

Saab /sɑːb/ *n tdmk* a Swedish company that makes cars: *We're hoping to get a Saab next time we buy a new car.*

Saa·tchi and Saa·tchi /ˌsɑːtʃi ənd ˈsɑːtʃi/ a British advertising and public relations company

Sa·bah /ˈsɑːbɑː/ a state of East Malaysia which used to be the British PROTECTORATE of North Borneo

Sab·a·ti·ni /ˌsæbəˈtiːni/, **Gab·ri·el·a** /ˌgæbriˈelə/ (1970–) an Argentinian tennis player of international standard, winner of the US Open in 1990 and a Wimbledon finalist in 1991

sab·ba·tar·i·an /ˌsæbəˈteəriən◂/ *adj, n* (*often cap.*) (of or being) a person who believes in keeping the Sabbath as a holy day

Sab·bath /ˈsæbəθ/ also **Sabbath day** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— [*the*] **1** *oldfash* Sunday, kept as a day of rest and worship by most Christian churches **2** Saturday, kept as a day of rest and worship by Jews and some Christians **3 keep/break the Sabbath** to keep/break the religious rules which limit work and play on this day: *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

sab·bat·i·cal[1] /səˈbætɪkəl/ *n* a period, often one year in each seven, when someone, esp. a university teacher, does not do their ordinary job and may travel, study, etc., but still gets paid as usual: *She's* **on sabbatical** *this year.* | *to take a sabbatical*

sabbatical[2] *adj* [A] of or being a sabbatical: *a sabbatical year/term* | *sabbatical leave*

sa·ber /ˈseɪbəʳ/ *n AmE for* SABRE —see picture at SWORD

sa·ble[1] /ˈseɪbəl/ *n* [C;U] (the dark fur of) a small animal of northern Europe and Asia: *an artist's sable brush* (=made from this fur)

sable[2] *adj poet* black or very dark

sab·o·tage[1] /ˈsæbətɑːʒ/ *n* [U] **1** intentional damage to machines, buildings, etc., usu. carried out secretly to weaken a government, an enemy country in wartime, or a business competitor: *an act of sabotage* **2** intentional indirect or secret action to prevent or ruin a plan

sabotage[2] *v* [T] to damage, destroy, or cause to fail by means of sabotage: *Someone had sabotaged the railway line by blowing up a tunnel.* | *a deliberate attempt to sabotage the country's economy*

sab·o·teur /ˌsæbəˈtɜːʳ/ *n* a person who practises sabotage

sa·bra /ˈsɑːbrə/ *n infml, esp. AmE* (*often cap.*) a citizen of Israel who was born there

sa·bre *BrE* ‖ **saber** *AmE* /ˈseɪbəʳ/ *n* **1** a heavy military sword with a curved blade used in former times **2** a light sharp-pointed sword with one sharp edge used in FENCING —compare EPEE, FOIL[3] and see picture at SWORD

sabre-rat·tling /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *derog* threats of the use of military power

sabre-toothed ti·ger /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *n* a large tiger that lived very long ago, and had two long curved teeth in its upper jaw

sac /sæk/ *n tech* a part shaped like a bag inside a plant or animal, usu. containing a particular liquid

Sac·a·ja·we·a /ˌsækədʒəˈwiːə/ (1784?–1884?) a Native American woman who acted as a guide on Lewis and Clark's travels from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean

sac·cha·rin /ˈsækərɪn/ *n* [U] a very sweet-tasting chemical used instead of sugar, usu. in drinks, esp. by people who want to reduce their weight or must not eat sugar

sac·cha·rine /ˈsækəriːn/ *adj* **1** very sweet or unpleasantly sweet **2** *derog* too friendly, nice, kind, happy, etc.: *a saccharine love story*

sac·er·do·tal /ˌsækəˈdəʊtl◂‖-kər-/ *adj tech* of or like a priest or priests

sach·et /ˈsæʃeɪ‖sæˈʃeɪ/ *n* a small usu. plastic bag or packet containing a liquid or powder, esp. enough to be used all at one time: *a sachet of sugar/shampoo* | *She put a perfumed sachet in her drawers to scent her clothes.*

sack[1] /sæk/ *n* **1** [C] **a** a large bag, usu. of strong rough cloth, strong paper, or plastic used for storing or carrying flour, coal, vegetables, grain, etc.: *a sack of potatoes* **b** also **sack·ful** /fʊl/— the amount that a sack contains **2** [*the*] *BrE infml* dismissed from one's job: *If you're late again the boss will* **give** *you* **the sack**/*you'll* **get the sack**. **3** [C] *infml, esp. AmE* a bed **4 hit the sack** *infml* to go to bed

sack[2] *v* **1** [T] *BrE infml* to dismiss from a job: *I've just been sacked.* **2** [T] (in American football) to knock down a player: *sack the quarterback*

sack out *phr v* [I] *AmE infml* to go to sleep, esp. for the night: *I'm ready to sack out.*

sack[3] *v* [T] (esp. of an army in former times) to destroy buildings, take things of value, and usu. harm or kill people in (a defeated city) —**sack** *n* [(*the*) S (**of**)] : *the sack of Rome by the barbarians*

sack[4] *n* [U] a white wine brought to England esp. from Spain in the 16th and 17th centuries

sack·cloth /ˈsæk-klɒθ‖-klɔːθ/ also **sack·ing** /ˈsækɪŋ/— *n* [U] rough cloth for making sacks

sackcloth and ashes /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *n* [P] **wear sackcloth and ashes** to do something publicly to show that one has done something wrong (from a custom described in the Bible of wearing sackcloth and ashes to show that one was sorry about something one had done wrong): *I know I've done something wrong, but I'm not going to walk around wearing sackcloth and ashes!*

sack race /ˈ· ·/ *n* a race in which the competitors have to run or jump forwards with both legs inside a sack, usu. performed by younger children, e.g. at a school sports day.

sac·ra·ment /ˈsækrəmənt/ *n* (used esp. in the Roman Catholic Church) an important Christian ceremony, such as BAPTISM, the EUCHARIST, or marriage, considered as bringing God's blessing to those who receive it — ~**al** /ˌsaekrəˈmentl◂/ *adj*

Sacrament [*the*] (used esp. in the Roman Catholic Church) the holy bread eaten at the EUCHARIST

sa·cred /ˈseɪkrɪd/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] religious in nature or use: *sacred music* | *sacred history* (=the history of the church or religion) —opposite **secular** **2** holy because connected with God or a god: *Cows are sacred to Hindus.* **3** serious, solemn, and important in the way religious things are: *a sacred oath* | (*esp. humor*) *Tennis players are wearing coloured clothes at Wimbledon* — **is nothing sacred any more?** — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

sacred cow /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n derog* an idea, practice, etc. that is so much accepted that not even honest doubts about it are allowed: *You can't attack free enterprise at the Republican convention; it's one of the party's sacred cows.*

sac·ri·fice[1] /ˈsækrɪfaɪs/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a) religious offering to God or a god, in the hope of gaining favour or preventing something bad from happening, esp. of an animal by killing it in a ceremony **2** (a) loss or giving up of something of value, esp. for what is believed to be a good purpose: *Success in your job is not worth the sacrifice of your health.* | *another speech by the Prime Minister about the need for economic sacrifice* | *His parents* **made** *a lot of* **sacrifices** *to make sure he got a good education.* **3** (in BASEBALL) a hit which allows a runner on BASE to move to the next base but which puts the BATTER out **4 the final/supreme sacrifice** *fml* the act of giving one's life esp. for a good cause: *a war hero who made the final sacrifice to save his fellow soldiers*

sacrifice[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to make an offering of (something or someone) as a sacrifice, esp. by killing it in a ceremony: *The high priest sacrificed the goat on the altar.* **2** [T (**for,**

to)] to lose or give up, esp. for a good purpose or to gain a desirable result: *It is the company's policy to sacrifice short-term profits for the sake of long-term growth.* | *to increase production without sacrificing quality* **3** [T;I] to make a sacrifice[1] (3)

sac·ri·fi·cial /ˌsækrɨˈfɪʃəl◂/ *adj* of or being a sacrifice: *a sacrificial lamb|victim* —~**ly** *adv*

sac·ri·lege /ˈsækrɨlɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the act of treating a holy place or thing without respect: (fig.) *I think it would be (a) sacrilege to pull down this beautiful old building.* —compare BLASPHEMY —**-legious** /ˌsækrɨˈlɪdʒəs◂/ *adj* —**-legiously** *adv*

sac·ris·tan /ˈsækrɨstən/ *n* a person in a church whose job is to take care of the articles used in worship, and sometimes of the whole church building

sac·ris·ty /ˈsækrɨsti/ *n* a VESTRY (1)

sac·ro·il·i·ac /ˌsækrəʊˈɪliæk◂/ *n* the area of the body at the bottom of the BACKBONE where it meets the HIPS

sac·ro·sanct /ˈsækrəʊsæŋkt/ *adj often derog or humor* too holy or important to be allowed to suffer any harm or disrespect: *I never take any work home at the weekends — they are sacrosanct.*

sad /sæd/ *adj* **-dd-** **1** feeling, showing, or causing grief or sorrow; unhappy: *I was sad to hear that you're leaving.* | *It was a sad day for our team when we lost the final.* | *sad eyes* | *sad news* | *the saddest moment in the whole book* **2** [A] unsatisfactory or unacceptable; DEPLORABLE: *It's a sad state of affairs when children aren't taught to read properly.* **3 sadder but wiser** *infml* having learned from unpleasant experience **4 sad to say** unfortunately: *Sad to say, the weather here has been nothing but rain all week.* —opposite **happy**; see also SADLY — ~**ness** *n* [U]

Sa·dat /səˈdæt/, **An·war al-** /ˈænwɑːr æl/ (1918–81) the president of Egypt from 1970 to 1981, who helped the cause of peace between the Arabs and Israel, for which he received a share in the Nobel Peace Prize with Menachem Begin. He was killed by some of his own officers.

Sad·dam /sæˈdæm/, **Hussein** see Sadam HUSSEIN

sad·den /ˈsædn/ *v* [T *often pass.*] *fml* to make sad: *We were very saddened to hear of the death of your mother.*

sad·dle[1] /ˈsædl/ *n* **1** [C] a usu. leather seat made to fit over the back of an animal, esp. a horse, for a rider to sit on: *After many hours* **in the saddle** (=riding) *he was very weary.* —see picture at HORSE **2** [C] a seat on a bicycle, motorcycle, etc. —see picture at BICYCLE **3** [C;U+**of**] *esp. BrE* (a piece of) meat cut from the back of a sheep or deer just in front of the back legs: *roast saddle of lamb* **4 in the saddle** *infml* in control: *It's good to have an experienced man in the saddle again.*

saddle[2] *v* [T (UP)] to put a saddle on (an animal): *He saddled (up) his horse and rode away.*

saddle up *phr v* [I] to put a saddle on a horse: *He saddled up and rode away.*

saddle sbdy. **with** sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to cause (someone) to have (a difficult or unpleasant duty, responsibility, etc.): *They saddled me with all the secretarial work because I was the only one who could type.* [+*v-ing*] *I got saddled with taking the children to school again!*

sad·dle·bag /ˈsædlbæg/ *n* **1** either of a joined pair of bags placed over an animal's back so that one hangs on each side below a saddle **2** a bag fixed to a bicycle, motorcycle, etc., behind the seat or in a pair over the back wheel

saddle blan·ket /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a thick piece of cloth which one puts beneath the saddle on a horse

sad·dler /ˈsædləʳ/ *n* a maker of saddles and other leather articles for horses

sad·dler·y /ˈsædləri/ *n* **1** [U] goods made by a saddler **2** [C] a saddler's shop

saddle shoe /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE* a shoe on which the toe and heel are of one colour and the middle part is of another colour. They are usu. black and white, and were fashionable in the 1950s, esp. worn with BOBBY SOCKS and full skirts.

saddle-sore /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* (of a person) sore and painfully stiff from riding a horse or bicycle

Sade /sɑːd/, **Mar·quis de** /ˈmɑːki də‖ˈmɑːr-/ (1740–1814) a French soldier and writer who was put in prison for sexual offences. He wrote plays and books about gaining sexual pleasure from causing pain, now known as **sadism**.

sa·dhu /ˈsɑːduː/ *n* an ASCETIC wandering Hindu holy man

Sa·die Haw·kins Day /ˌseɪdi ˈhɔːkɪnz ˌdeɪ/ *AmE* a day on which women ask men to go out with them, usu. to a special dance (a **Sadie Hawkins dance**)

sa·dis·m /ˈseɪdɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the gaining of pleasure from being cruel **2** the gaining of sexual pleasure from causing pain to someone —compare MASOCHISM, see Marquis de SADE —**sadist** *n* : *The headmaster's a bit of a sadist; he loves to keep boys waiting outside his office in fear.* —**distic** /səˈdɪstɪk/ *adj* : *"I'm afraid you will never see your children again," he said with a sadistic smile.* —**distically** /kli/ *adv*

Sad·ler's Wells /ˌsædləz ˈwelz‖-lərz-/ a theatre in London. OPERA, BALLET, and DRAMA were performed here and the theatre gave its name to the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet which has now become the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

sad·ly /ˈsædli/ *adv* **1** in a sad manner: *He walked sadly away.* **2** unfortunately: *Sadly, our plan failed.* **3** in a way that is wrong or unacceptable: *The garden was beautiful once, but has been sadly neglected.* | *If you think you can get money from him you're* **sadly mistaken** (=completely wrong); *he never lends anything to anyone.*

sa·do·mas·o·chis·m /ˌseɪdəʊˈmæsəkɪzəm/ *n* [U] the gaining of pleasure from being cruel to others (SADISM) and also from being hurt (MASOCHISM) —**-chist** *n* —**-chistic** /ˌseɪdəʊmæsəˈkɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

s.a.e., S.A.E. /ˌes eɪ ˈiː/ *BrE— abbrev. for:* **1** stamped addressed envelope; one often has to send an s.a.e. to get a reply from e.g. an advertiser **2** self-addressed envelope —compare SASE

sa·fa·ri[1] /səˈfɑːri/ *n* a trip through wild country, esp. in east or central Africa, hunting or photographing big animals: *They went* **on safari** *searching for the rare black rhinoceros.*

safari[2] *adj* [A] (of clothes) made of light material, usu. with two pockets on the chest and a belt, originally made to be suitable for the weather in Africa: *a safari suit|jacket*

safari park /·ˈ·· ·/ *n* a park in which large groups of wild animals are kept, so that one can drive round in a car and look at them

safe[1] /seɪf/ *adj* **1** [F (**from**)] out of danger; not threatened by harm; not able to be hurt; protected: *We were safe from attack in the underground shelter.* | *Don't cry; you're safe now.* | *Your money will be* **as safe as houses** (=completely safe) *with me.* **2** not hurt; unharmed: *They prayed for the safe return of the kidnapped child.* | *The fragile china survived the bumpy journey* **safe and sound**. (=completely undamaged) **3** not allowing or likely to cause danger or harm: *Flying is one of the safest forms of travel.* | *Don't walk on that old roof — it isn't safe.* | *Keep these papers in a safe place.* | *a safe form of energy* | *Is this water safe for drinking?* [+*to-v*] *Is this a safe place to swim?* | *Is it safe to swim here?* —opposite **unsafe** **4** not likely to cause disagreement: *Don't mention his divorce; stick to safe subjects.* **5** not involving any risk: *a safe investment|decision* | **It's safe to say|a safe bet** *that house prices will continue to rise.* | *a safe method of birth control* **6** (of a person) fit to be trusted; unlikely to take risks; RELIABLE: *a safe driver* | *She wouldn't agree to the children going until she felt satisfied they would be* **in safe hands.** (=carefully looked after) **7** (of a seat in a parliament) certain to be won in an election by the present holder: *a safe Labour seat* **8 better safe than sorry** it is wiser to take care in advance than to risk loss, danger, etc. when doing something: *I've checked that the safety harness is in good condition — better safe than sorry!* **9 on the 'safe side** taking no risks; being more careful than may be necessary: *Let's be on the safe side and take more money than we think we'll need.* —see also **play it safe** (PLAY[2] (20)), FAIL-SAFE — ~**ly** *adv* : *Drive safely!* | *I think we can safely assume* (=without much risk of being wrong) *that she will pass the exam.* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

safe[2] *n* a box or cupboard with thick metal sides and a lock, sometimes built as part of a wall, used for protecting valuable things from thieves and fire: *to break into|crack a safe*

safe·break·er /ˈseɪfˌbreɪkəʳ/ *BrE* ‖**safe·crack·er** /ˈseɪf ˌkrækəʳ/*esp. AmE— n* a person who opens safes by force to steal

safe-con·duct /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] (a written order for) official protection given to a person, such as an enemy in

wartime, who is passing through a particular area

safe-de·pos·it box /ˈ· ·ˌ·· ˌ·/ also **safety-deposit box**– *n* a small box for the safe storing of small valuable objects, usu. in a special room in a bank: *I've lost the key to my safe-deposit box.*

safe·guard[1] /ˈseɪfgɑːd‖-gɑːrd/ *n* [(**against**)] a means of protection against possible dangers: *This clause in the contract is a necessary safeguard against our losing money on the deal.* | *The law contains new safeguards to protect customers who buy used cars.*

safeguard[2] *v* [T (**from, against**)] to be a safeguard for; protect: *This agreement will safeguard the newspapers from government interference.*

safe ha·ven /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** a place where one is protected from dangers **2** an area within a country where a group of people can live without fear of attack or PERSECUTION on e.g. religious grounds

safe house /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a house where someone can hide or take shelter, e.g. when enemies are looking for them or when they are planning an illegal activity. Safe houses are esp. thought of in connection with spies (SPY[1]).

safe·keep·ing /ˌseɪfˈkiːpɪŋ/ *n* [U] the action or state of protection from harm or loss for things of value: *Put your important documents in the bank* **for safekeeping**. | *They were left* **in my safekeeping**, *so I can't really lend them to you.*

safe seat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a political seat which is always won by the same political party and is in no danger of being won by another

safe sex /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] sex which reduces the risk of the spread of AIDS and other infections, e.g. by using a CONDOM

safe·ty /ˈseɪfti/ *n* **1** [U] the condition of being safe; freedom from danger, harm, or risk: *The safety of the ship is the captain's responsibility.* | *She led the children to a place of safety.* | *There are fears for the safety of the climbers.* (=they might be hurt or dead) | *The management took all reasonable safety precautions.* | *Safety checks are carried out on all industrial machinery.* | *Let's try to stay together as a group: there's* **safety in numbers**. | *It's very important to teach children about* **road safety**. **2** (in FOOTBALL (2)) two points gained by making the opposing team set the ball down in its own GOAL. This usu. happens by tackling (TACKLE[1] (3)) the player with the ball.

safety belt /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a SEAT BELT, esp. in an aircraft

safety catch /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a lock on a gun to prevent it from being fired accidentally

safety cur·tain /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a theatre curtain made of material that will not burn, which may be lowered in front of the stage

safety-de·pos·it box /ˈ·· ·ˌ·· ˌ·/ *n* a SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX

safety-first /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *adj* [A] *sometimes derog* showing a wish to take no risks; CAUTIOUS: *a safety-first attitude*

safety glass /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] strong glass that breaks only into small pieces which are not sharp, used, for example, in car windows

safety is·land /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* ISLAND (2)

safety lamp /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a miner's lamp made so that its flame cannot explode the gases found underground

safety match /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a match which can be lit only by rubbing it along a special surface on its box or packet

safety mea·sure /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* action taken to prevent something dangerous from happening: *The wearing of hard hats on building sites has been an important safety measure.*

safety net /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large net stretched out below someone performing high above the ground to catch them if they fall: *A safety net was spread below the tightrope walker.* | (fig.) *What happens to the poor people who are not caught by the government's safety net of welfare payments?*

safety pin /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a wire pin that has a cover at one end and is bent round so that its point can be held safely inside the cover; used e.g. to fasten babies' nappies (NAPPY) –see picture at PIN

safety ra·zor /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a RAZOR with a cover fitting over the thin blade to protect the skin from being cut –see picture at RAZOR

safety valve /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a part of a machine, esp. of a steam engine, which allows gas, steam, etc., to escape when the pressure becomes too great: (fig.) *Vigorous exercise is a good safety valve if you're under a lot of pressure at work.*

Safe·way /ˈseɪfweɪ/ one of a group of SUPERMARKETS in Britain and the US, selling mainly food but also other goods

saf·fron /ˈsæfrən/ *n* [U] **1** powder of a deep orange colour obtained from a flower and used for colouring and giving a special taste to food, esp. rice **2** an orange-yellow colour: *a Buddhist monk's saffron robes*

sag[1] /sæg/ *v* **-gg-** [I] **1** to sink, settle, or bend downwards, esp. away from the usual or correct position: *The branch sagged under the weight of the apples.* | *the old man's sagging cheeks* | (fig.) *My spirits sagged* (=I became less happy) *when I saw the amount of work I had to do.* **2** to fall in value, amount, or level, esp. for a short time: *the sagging demand for gas during the summer months.* **3** (of a book, performance, etc.) to become uninteresting during part of the length: *I finished the book even though it sagged a bit in the middle and I almost stopped reading.*

sag[2] *n* [S;U (**in**)] **1** (a) downward bending or sinking: *We need to do something about the sag in the ceiling.* **2** fall in value, amount, or level: *a sag in the price of oil.*

SAG /sæg/ Screen Actors' Guild; an American TRADE UNION for actors and actresses whose performances are filmed for television or films –compare AFTRA, EQUITY

sa·ga /ˈsɑːgə/ *n* **-gas** **1** any of the stories written from the 12th to the 14th century about the Vikings of Norway and Iceland **2** a long story about a particular place, time in history, group of people, etc.: *This new novel is an absorbing family saga.* **3** *derog* (a detailed account of) a set of usu. not very interesting events happening over a long period: *She told me the saga of all her operations.*

sa·ga·cious /səˈgeɪʃəs/ *adj fml or lit* having or showing deep understanding and good judgment; wise – ~**ly** *adv*

sa·ga·ci·ty /səˈgæsɨti/ *n* [U] *fml or lit* good judgment and understanding; wisdom

sage[1] /seɪdʒ/ *adj esp. lit* wise, esp. as a result of long thinking and experience: *I was grateful for the old man's sage advice.* – ~**ly** *adv* : *He nodded sagely.*

sage[2] *n* [*often pl.*] *esp. lit* someone, esp. an old man or historical person, well known for their wisdom and long experience

sage[3] *n* [U] a plant with grey-green leaves which are used in cooking to give a special taste to food: *sage and onion stuffing*

sage·brush /ˈseɪdʒbrʌʃ/ *n* [U] a short bushy plant very common on the dry plains of the western US

sag·gy /ˈsægi/ *adj usu. derog* that sinks or drops downwards, esp. having lost its original firmness: *a saggy mattress* | *saggy cheeks/breasts*

Sa·git·tar·i·us /ˌsædʒɨˈteəriəs/ *n* **1** [U] the ninth sign of the ZODIAC, represented by an animal that is half-horse and half-human shooting an ARROW **2** [C] a person born between November 22 and December 22 –see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC

sa·go /ˈseɪgəʊ/ *n* [U] a white food substance (STARCH) made from the stems of certain PALM trees and used in the form of grains or powder for making sweet dishes with milk

sa·gua·ro /səˈgwɑːrəʊ/ *n* a large desert plant which has arms branching off the main body. It grows mainly in the southwestern US and parts of Mexico.

Sa·ha·ra /səˈhɑːrə‖-ˈhæ-/ also **Sahara Des·ert** /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the world's largest desert, in N Africa

sahib /sɑːb‖ˈsɑː-ɪb/ *n IndE & PakE* (*usu. cap.*) (used in India in former times as a title of respect for a European man): *Good morning, sahib!* | *The colonel sahib is not in his office.* –compare MEMSAHIB

said[1] /sed/ *past tense & participle of* SAY

said[2] *adj* [(*the*) A] *law* the particular (person, thing, etc.) spoken of before: *John James Smith is charged with stealing. The said John Smith was seen leaving the shop at the times stated.*

Sai·gon /ˌsaɪˈgɒn‖-ˈgɑːn/ the former name of Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam. It was the capital of South Vietnam when the country was divided in two, and it was badly damaged during the VIETNAM WAR.

sail[1] /seɪl/ *n* **1** [C;U] a piece of strong cloth, such as NYLON or CANVAS, fixed in position on a ship to move it through the water by the force of the wind: *We hoisted/lowered the*

sails. | *a ship* **in full sail** (=with all its sails spread) **2** [S] a short trip, usu. for pleasure, in a boat with sails: *Let's go for a sail this afternoon.* **3** [C] any of the broad wind-catching blades of a WINDMILL —see picture at WINDMILL **4 set sail** to begin a journey by ship or change course at sea: *We set sail for home.* **5 under sail** being driven by sails and wind

sail[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*; T] to travel on water or across (a body of water) in a ship or boat (not only one with sails): *The great ships sailed past.* | *We sailed (across) the Atlantic in five days.* —see BOAT (USAGE) **2** [T] to direct or command (a ship or boat) on water: *Do you know how to sail this boat?* | *The captain sailed his ship through the narrow channel.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to begin a journey across water: *We sail with the tide.* | *Our ship sails tomorrow for New York.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] to move proudly, smoothly, or easily: *The actress sailed into the room in her flowing dress.* | *He simply sailed through the difficult exam.* (=passed it easily) **5 sail under false colours** to express feelings or opinions in favour of something which one really opposes —see also **(sail) close to the wind** (CLOSE[3])

sail into sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to attack forcefully: *She sailed into her critics.*

sail·board /ˈseɪlbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* a flat floating board with a sail fixed to it which is used by one person standing up in the sport of WIND-SURFING

sail·cloth /ˈseɪlklɒθ‖-klɔːθ/ *n* [U] a type of heavy CANVAS (1) cloth used mainly for making sails for boats or ships

sail·ing /ˈseɪlɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the skill of directing the course of a ship **2** [U] the sport of riding in or directing a small boat with sails **3** [C] an occasion of a ship leaving a port: *When is the next sailing to Ostend?* —see also PLAIN SAILING

sailing boat /ˈ·· ·/ ‖ also **sail·boat** /ˈseɪlbəʊt/*AmE*— *n* a boat driven by one or more sails, esp. a small boat used for racing and pleasure trips —see also YACHT

sailing ship /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large ship which gets its power only from the action of the wind on its sails, having either no motor or only a small one for helping it in making certain movements

sail·or /ˈseɪlə[r]/ *n* **1** a person with a job on a ship, esp. one who is not a ship's officer **2** a member of a navy — compare SOLDIER

►CULTURAL NOTE Sailors are thought, esp. in jokes, to have a different woman waiting for them in every port they visit.◄

3 a traveller on the water: *I'm afraid I'm not a very good sailor.* (=I get sick when I travel on the water) **4** a person who regularly goes SAILING (2) **5 all the nice girls love a sailor** the title of an old popular song, sometimes mentioned by people who are praising sailors **6 home is the sailor, home from sea** *quote* a phrase from a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, sometimes used humorously

sailor suit /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a usu. blue and white suit, esp. for a child, copied from a sailor's uniform, and worn esp. formerly

sail·plane /ˈseɪlpleɪn/ *n* a GLIDER (=plane with no engine) for long flights which rises in upward movements of air

Sains·bu·ry's /ˈseɪnzbərɪz‖-beriz/ one of a group of British SUPERMARKETS selling mainly food and drink but also other goods. Sainsbury's has a MIDDLE-CLASS image and most of their shops are in the richer SE of England and in the Midlands.

Sainsbury Wing /ˈ··· ˌ·/ [*the*] the new part of the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square

saint /seɪnt/ *n* **1** a person who is officially recognized after death by (a branch of) the Christian church as being specially holy and worthy of formal honour in the church: *Joan of Arc was made a saint in 1920.* | *You need* **the patience of a saint** *for this job.* (=you need to be very patient) **2** *infml* a very good and completely unselfish person: *I don't know how she puts up with that terrible husband of hers; she's a real saint.* —~**hood** *n* [U]

Saint /sənt; *strong* seɪnt/ *n* [A] (*written abbrev.* **St**) (used as a title before a saint's name)

Saint Albans see ST ALBANS

Saint An·drew /· ˈ··/ (first century AD) a fisherman who became a follower of Jesus, the national SAINT of Scotland. **St Andrew's Day**, 30th November, is celebrated as the Scottish national day.

Saint Andrews see ST ANDREWS

Saint Andrew's Cross /· ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the national flag of Scotland, which is blue with two DIAGONAL white bands

Saint Au·gus·tine /sənt ɔːˈgʌstɪn ‖ seɪnt ˈɔːgəstiːn/ also **Saint Augustine of Hippo**— (354–430) an early Christian thinker and writer whose works, esp. *Confessions* and *The City of God*, have had a great influence in the development of Christianity

Saint Ber·na·dette /sənt ˌbɜːnəˈdet‖seɪnt ˌbɜːr-/ also **St Bernadette of Lourdes** /· ˌ··· · ˈ·/— (1844–79) a girl who claimed to have seen the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, which made Lourdes become a place of PILGRIMAGE, esp. for the sick.

Saint Bernard see ST BERNARD

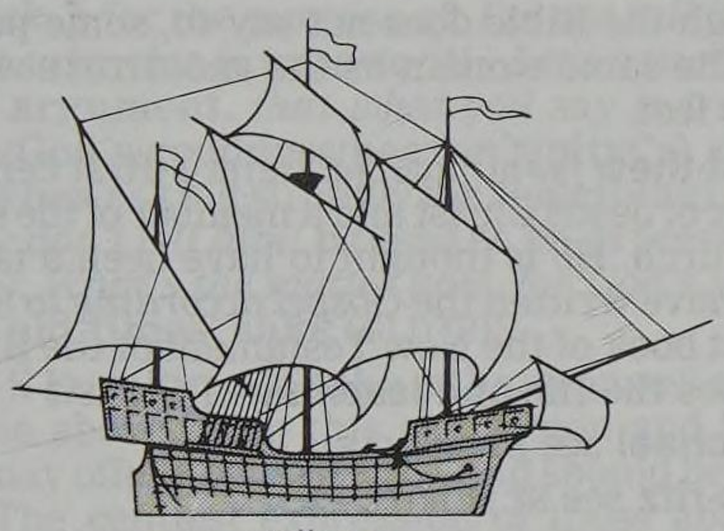
Saint Chris·to·pher /sənt ˈkrɪstəfə[r]‖seɪnt-/ (died ?250) a man supposed to have carried the young Christ across the river, and so a special saint (=PATRON SAINT) of travellers. Some people wear a small metal picture of Saint Christopher on a chain round their necks or have one in their cars to protect them when they are travelling: *He wore a Saint Christopher.*

Saint Clair, Lindi see Lindi ST CLAIR

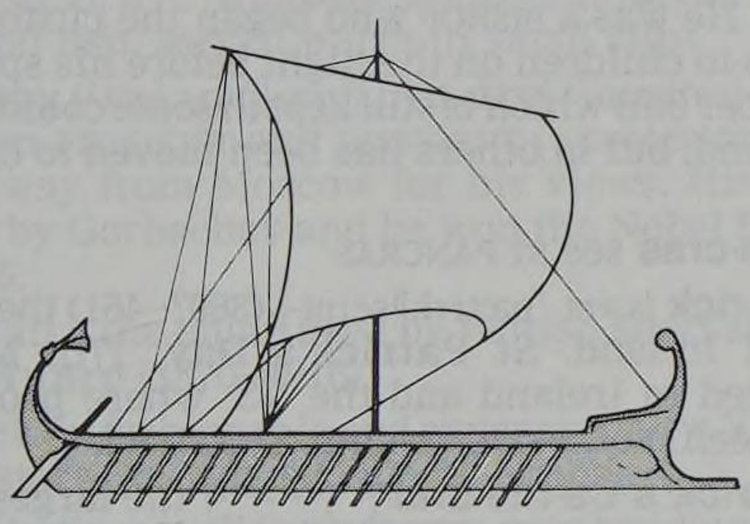
Saint Da·vid /· ˈ··/ (died ?601) a Welsh BISHOP and the national SAINT of Wales. **St David's Day**, 1st March, is celebrated as the Welsh national day.

saint·ed /ˈseɪntɪd/ *adj* **1** made a SAINT (1); CANONIZED **2** [A] *old-fash* (of a dead person) like a SAINT; holy **3 my sainted aunt** *old-fash infml, esp. BrE* (used for expressing surprise)

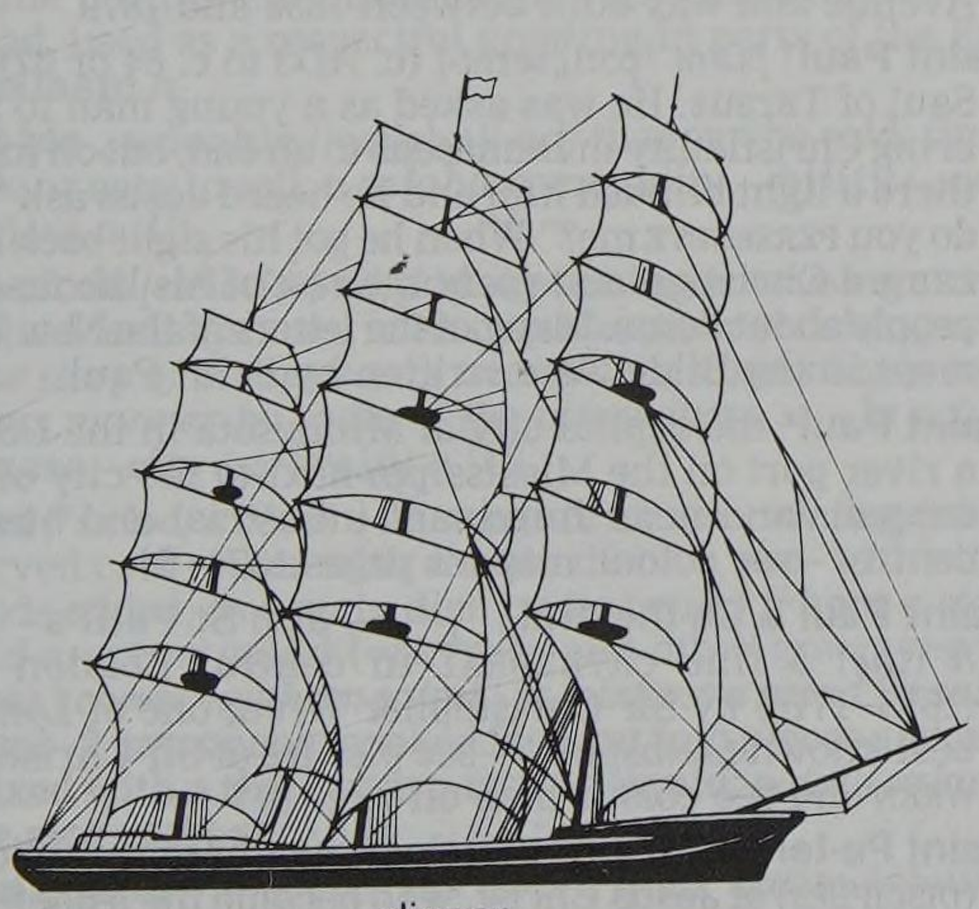
sailing ships



galleon



galley



clipper

Saint Fran·cis of As·si·si /sənt ˌfrɑːnsɨs əv əˈsiːsiː‖ seɪnt ˌfræn-/ (1182–1226) an Italian MONK who began the Franciscan ORDER[1] (9). He is remembered for his lack of pride and love of animals, esp. birds.

Saint Francis of Assisi



Saint Fran·cis Xa·vi·er /sənt ˌfrɑːnsɨs ˈzeɪviəʳ‖seɪnt ˌfræn-/ (1506–52) a Spanish Jesuit MISSIONARY who went abroad to teach the Christian religion and helped found the Society of Jesus. He spent the last 11 years of his life in India, South East Asia and Japan.

Saint George /· ˈ·/ (fourth century AD?) the national SAINT of England, a soldier in the Roman army who was martyred (MARTYR) in Asia Minor. He is said to have saved the life of a woman by killing a DRAGON (=an imaginary dangerous animal). **St George's Day**, 23rd April, is celebrated as the English national day.

Saint George's Cross /· ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] the national flag of England, which is white with a red cross

Saint Hel·ens see ST HELENS

Saint Ives see ST IVES

Saint James's see ST JAMES'S

Saint Joan of Arc



Saint Joan of Arc /sənt ˌdʒəʊn əv ˈɑːk‖seɪnt-, -ˈɑːrk/ (1412–31) a French military leader and national HEROINE who heard voices telling her to fight the English who were in her country. Dressed as a man, she led an army which defeated the English, but she was caught and burnt after being found guilty of WITCHCRAFT and HERESY. She was made a SAINT in 1920.

Saint John /· ˈ·/ (first century AD) a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of the early Christian church. He is thought to have written several of the books of the New Testament in the Bible: the Gospel according to St John, the three Epistles, and Revelation. He was the brother of Saint James and is sometimes called **St John the Evangelist** and **St John the Divine**.

Saint John's Am·bu·lance see ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Saint John the Baptist



Saint John the Bap·tist /· ˌ·· ˈ··/ (about 12 BC–28 AD) a religious teacher in the New Testament of the Bible who baptized (BAPTIZE) Jesus in the river Jordan

Saint Jo·seph of Ar·i·ma·thae·a /sənt ˌdʒəʊzɨf əv ˌærɨməˈθiːə‖seɪnt-/ (1st century AD) a rich Jewish supporter of Jesus in the New Testament who buried Jesus's body in his own TOMB. He is believed to have brought the Holy Grail to England and built the first Christian church in Britain, at Glastonbury.

Saint Jude /sənt ˈdʒuːd ‖ seɪnt-/ (1st century AD) a writer in the New Testament, believed to be the brother of Jesus

Saint Kath·a·rine's Dock see ST KATHARINE'S DOCK

Saint Kilda see ST KILDA

Saint Kitts-Ne·vis see ST KITTS-NEVIS

Saint Lau·rent /sæn lɒˈrɒŋ‖-ləʊˈrɑːn/, **Yves** /iːv/ (1936–) French clothes DESIGNER known for efforts to bring fashionable clothes to ordinary people on a large scale

Saint Law·rence see ST LAWRENCE

Saint Leger see ST LEGER

Saint Lou·is see ST LOUIS

Saint Lu·cia see ST LUCIA

Saint Luke /sənt ˈluːk‖seɪnt-/ (first century AD) a member of the early Christian church. He is thought to have been a doctor and to have written the *Gospel according to St Luke*, the third book of the New Testament of the Bible, which describes the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

saint·ly /ˈseɪntli/ *adj* of, like, or suitable to a SAINT; very holy: *a saintly man/life* —**-liness** *n* [U]

Saint Mark /· ˈ·/ (first century AD) one of the followers of Jesus Christ and a member of the early Christian church. He is thought to have written the *Gospel according to St Mark*, the second book of the New Testament of the Bible, which describes the life and teaching of Christ.

Saint Mar·tha and Saint Ma·ry /sənt ˌmɑːθə ənd sənt ˈmeəri‖seɪnt ˌmɑːrθə ənd seɪnt-/ (first century AD) in the Bible, two sisters whom Jesus visited. Mary sat and listened to his teachings, but Martha was more concerned to bring him food and drink. They are regarded as representing active Christians, who do good works, and CONTEMPLATIVE Christians, who think deeply about religion.

Saint Martin-in-the-Fields see ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

Saint Ma·ry Mag·da·lene /sənt ˌmeəri mægdəˈliːni‖seɪnt-/ (first century AD) according to the Bible, a woman whom Jesus Christ cured. She saw the CRUCIFIXION and was the first person to see him after he rose from the dead. Although the Bible does not say so, some people think she is the same woman as the PROSTITUTE who washed Jesus's feet.

Saint Mat·thew /sənt ˈmæθjuː‖seɪnt-/ (first century AD) a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of the early Christian church. He is thought to have been a tax collector and to have written the *Gospel according to St Matthew*, the first book of the New Testament of the Bible, which describes the life and teaching of Christ.

Saint Michael see ST MICHAEL

Saint Mo·ritz see ST MORITZ

Saint Nich·o·las /· ˈ···/ (fourth century AD) the SAINT who is supposed to look after Russia, children, sailors, and traders. He was a BISHOP who began the custom of giving gifts to children on the night before his special day (December 6th) which is still kept in some countries such as Holland, but in others has been moved to CHRISTMAS DAY.

Saint Pan·cras see ST PANCRAS

Saint Pat·rick /sənt ˈpætrɪk‖seɪnt-/ (389?–461) the national SAINT of Ireland. **St Patrick's Day**, 17th March, is celebrated in Ireland and the US, where people often wear green clothes, to honour St Patrick.

Saint Patrick's Ca·the·dral /· ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ the largest Roman Catholic church in the US. It is in New York City on Fifth Avenue and was built between 1858 and 1879

Saint Paul[1] /sənt ˈpɔːl‖seɪnt-/ (c. AD3 to c. 64 or 67) born Saul of Tarsus. He was asked as a young man to try to bring Christianity in Damascus to an end, but on his way there a light blinded him and he heard Jesus ask "Why do you PERSECUTE me?" When he got his sight back he became a Christian and spent the rest of his life teaching people about Jesus. Many of the letters of the New Testament in the Bible were written by Saint Paul.

Saint Paul[2] the capital city of Minnesota in the US. It is a river port on the Mississippi next to the city of Minneapolis and is an important industrial and business centre. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Saint Paul's Ca·the·dral /· ˌ· ·ˈ··/ also **St Paul's**– *infml* *n* [*the*] a fine CATHEDRAL in central London built (1675–1710) by Sir Christopher Wren; one of London's best-known LANDMARKS —see picture at Sir Christopher WREN and see colour map on page 817

Saint Pe·ter /· ˈ··/ (died 64?) the leader of the 12 followers (DISCIPLES) of Jesus Christ, who became the leader of the early Christians. Roman Catholics regard him as the first Pope. He is sometimes known as **Simon Peter**.

Saint Peter's the largest church in the world, in the Vatican City, Rome. It is visited by many tourists.

Saint Petersburg see ST PETERSBURG

Saint Peter's Square /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ·/ the large square outside St Peter's, Rome, where many people gather to hear the POPE's Christmas message

Saint-Saëns /ˌsæn ˈsɒns‖ˌsæn ˈsɑːns/, **Ca·mille** /kæˈmiːl/ (1835–1921) a French COMPOSER best known for his OPERA *Samson and Delilah* and the popular *Carnival of Animals*

saint's day /ˈ· ·/ *n* the day each year on which the Christian church honours a particular SAINT: *St David's Day (1st March)* –compare NAME DAY

Saint Swith·in's Day /sənt ˈswɪðɪnz deɪ‖seɪnt-/ 15th July. According to an old story, if it rains on that day it will rain for 40 days following.

Saint Thomas see ST THOMAS

Saint Trinian's see ST TRINIAN'S

Saint Tropez see ST TROPEZ

Saint Val·en·tine's Day /· ˈ··· ˌ·/ also **Valentine's Day**– *n* February 14th, on which a greeting card (VALENTINE) is sent to someone one loves, but usu. without giving the name of the sender. Sometimes presents are exchanged or red roses given, as a sign of love.

Saint Vincent see ST VINCENT

Saint Vi·tus's Dance /sənt ˈvaɪtəsɪz ˌdɑːns‖seɪnt, -ˌdæns/ *n* [U] a nervous disorder that makes limbs and face suddenly move

saith /seθ/ *old use or bibl* says

sake[1] /seɪk/ *n* **1 for the sake of: a** in order to help, improve, or bring advantage: *He's going to live by the coast for the sake of his health.* | *I'm only doing it for your sake; I don't care about it myself.* | *For both our sakes, please do as I ask.* **b** for the purpose of: *I'm not talking just for talking's sake; this is important!* | *Let's assume,* **for the sake of argument**, *that what you say is true.* **2 for Christ's/God's/goodness/heaven's/pity('s) sake** *infml* **a** (used when asking strongly for something): *For goodness sake don't tell him!* **b** (used as an expression of annoyance): *What's the matter now, for God's sake?* –see also **for old times' sake** (OLD (9))

▷ USAGE **For Christ's sake** is the strongest expression of those above. Both this expression and **for God's sake** may offend some people, and should be used with care. The gentlest expression of those above is **for goodness sake.**◁

sa·ke[2] /ˈsɑːki/ *n* [U] a Japanese alcoholic drink made from rice and usu. served warm in small cups

Sak·ha·rov /ˈsækərɒf‖-rɔːf/, **An·drei** /ˈɑːndreɪ/ (1921–89) a Russian PHYSICIST and DISSIDENT (=protestor) who was sent away from Moscow for his views. His EXILE was ended by Gorbachev and he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975.

Sa·ki /ˈsɑːki/ the name used by British short story writer **H H Munro** (1870–1916)

saks /sæks/ a fashionable and expensive New York department store, known esp. for its clothes

sa·laam /səˈlɑːm/ *v* [I] to perform a deep bending of the body while putting the inside of the right hand on the forehead, used as a respectful greeting in parts of the East –**salaam** *n*

sa·la·ble , saleable /ˈseɪləbəl/ *adj* that can be sold; fit for sale or easy to sell: *a salable commodity* –**-bility** /ˌseɪləˈbɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

sa·la·cious /səˈleɪʃəs/ *adj fml* expressing or causing strong sexual feelings, usu. in an unpleasant or shocking way: *The story of the rape was treated in a disgustingly salacious manner by some of the newspapers.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness, -city** /səˈlæsɪti/ *n* [U]

sal·ad /ˈsæləd/ *n* [C;U] **1** a mixture of usu. raw vegetables served cold either with a main dish or, esp. with other foods added, as a main dish on its own: *I'll have a steak and a* **green salad** (=LETTUCE and other green vegetables) | *cheese/egg/ham salad* | *to mix/toss a salad* | *a salad bowl* **2** raw or cold cooked food cut into pieces and usu. mixed with a thick sharp-tasting liquid: *potato salad* – see also FRUIT SALAD

salad cream /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* a thick cream-coloured liquid, similar to MAYONNAISE but usu. sweeter, for putting on salads –compare SALAD DRESSING

salad days /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [P] *old-fash infml* one's time of youth and inexperience

salad dress·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] a liquid mixture, esp. one containing oil and VINEGAR, for putting on salads – compare SALAD CREAM

sal·a·man·der /ˈsæləmændəʳ/ *n* a small animal that is like a LIZARD but with soft skin and lives partly on land and partly in water

sa·la·mi /səˈlɑːmi/ *n* [U] a large SAUSAGE with a strong salty taste, usu. thinly cut and eaten cold

sal·a·ried /ˈsælərid/ *adj* having or receiving a salary, usu. as opposed to wages: *salaried workers/jobs*

sal·a·ry /ˈsæləri/ *n* [C;U] money, usu. paid directly into one's bank account once a month, that one receives as payment from the company or organization one works for: *He's on a very good salary now.* | *a salary of sixteen thousand* (=£16,000) *a year* –compare EMOLUMENT, WAGES; see PAY[2] (USAGE)

sale /seɪl/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an) exchange of property or goods for money; act of selling: *I told her how marvellous the new product was, and I soon made a sale.* (=she bought it) | *The law forbids the sale of alcohol to people under 18.* **2** [C] a special offering of goods in a shop at lower prices than usual. Sales in Britain are usu. held in January and in the summer: *This shirt was a bargain – only £10 in a sale.* | *Have the January sales started yet?* | *a clearance sale* | *usual price £3, sale price £1.49* –see also JUMBLE SALE **3** [C] a selling of articles to whoever offers the highest price; AUCTION: *a sale of fine old paintings* **4** [S] also **sales** *pl.* – the total amount sold: *We're hoping for a large sale/large sales for our new product.* **5 for sale** offered to be sold, esp. by a private owner: *"How much is that picture?" "It's only on display; it's not for sale."* | *There's a "For Sale" sign outside their house.* | *They've* **put** *their house* **up for sale. 6 on sale: a** offered to be sold, esp. in a shop: *The latest model of this video recorder is now on sale in your shops.* **b** *AmE* at or in a SALE (2): *I got this hat on sale; it was very cheap.* **7 (on) sale or return** supplied to a seller in such a way that the seller pays only for what he or she sells, and can send the rest back: *The newspapers are supplied to the shop on a sale or return basis.* –see also SALES, BILL OF SALE

sale·a·ble /ˈseɪləbəl/ *adj* SALABLE

Sa·lem /ˈseɪləm/ a town in Massachusetts, in the US, famous in history for its trying and hanging of WITCHes in 1692 (called the **Salem Witch Trials**). People sometimes use the words **witch hunt** to describe what happened at Salem and also what has happened in other situations in which innocent people have been punished for things they did not do, esp. the situation in the US during the HUAC hearings on COMMUNISM.

sale of work /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n BrE* an event at which people sell things they have made, e.g. cakes or toys, in order to collect money for CHARITY

sale·room /ˈseɪlrʊm, -ruːm/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **sales·room** /ˈseɪlzrʊm, -ruːm/*esp. AmE*– *n* a place where AUCTION sales are held

sales /seɪlz/ *adj* [A] of or for selling: *this year's sales figures/forecast* | *our company's new sales director* | *We're having a special* **sales drive.** (=trying hard to sell more products)

sales·clerk /ˈseɪlzklɑːk‖-klɜːrk/ *n AmE for* SHOP ASSISTANT

sales·girl /ˈseɪlzgɜːl‖-gɜːrl/ *n* a usu. young female SHOP ASSISTANT

sales·man /ˈseɪlzmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a male salesperson.

►CULTURAL NOTE Many people do not altogether trust what a salesman tells them (his PATTER), because they know he is trying to sell something.◄

sales·man·ship /ˈseɪlzmənʃɪp/ *n* [U] skill in selling: *It's not good salesmanship to bully a customer into buying a product.* | (fig.) *It took some clever salesmanship to get our plan accepted by the chairman.*

sales·per·son /ˈseɪlzpɜːsən‖-pɜːr-/ *n* **-people** /piːpəl/ **1** a sales representative **2** (used esp. in job advertisements, etc.) a SHOP ASSISTANT

sales pitch /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a salesperson's special way of talking about the goods he/she is trying to sell

sales rep·re·sen·ta·tive /ˈ· ··ˌ···/ *n* a person who goes from place to place, usu. within a particular area, selling and taking orders for their firm's goods

S

sales re·sist·ance /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] unwillingness to buy something; ability to keep oneself from being persuaded by a skilful salesperson

sales slip /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a RECEIPT (=record of things bought) given in a shop

sales talk /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] talking intended to persuade or sell, esp. by praising what is for sale

sales tax /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] (an amount or rate of) money charged as tax in addition to the ordinary price of an article or service. In the US sales tax is collected by city, COUNTY, and state governments, so it varies a lot from place to place, between 0 and 10 per cent: *Most states in the US have sales taxes.* —compare PURCHASE TAX, VAT

sales·wo·man /ˈseɪlzˌwʊmən/ *n* **-women** /ˌwɪmɪn/ a female SALESPERSON

Sal·ford /ˈsɔːlfəd‖-fərd/ a city within Greater Manchester, NW England, known for its university, CATHEDRAL, docks (DOCK[1]) and engineering and chemical industries

sa·li·ent[1] /ˈseɪliənt/ *adj fml* standing out most noticeably or importantly: *The salient features/points of his plan are summed up in this report.*

salient[2] *n tech* an angle pointing outwards, esp. in the wall of a fort or in a line of holes dug in a battlefield for defence

sa·line /ˈseɪlaɪn/ *adj tech* of or containing salt: *a saline solution* —**-linity** /səˈlɪnɨti/ *n* [U] : *to test the salinity of the water*

Sal·in·ger /ˈsælɪndʒəʳ/, **J. D.** (1919–) an American writer whose most famous book is *Catcher in the Rye*

Salis·bu·ry /ˈsɔːlzbəri‖-beri/ a city in S England famous for its large CATHEDRAL, which attracts many tourists

Salisbury Plain /ˌ··· ˈ·/ a large piece of open country in the S of England, used by the army as a training area. Stonehenge, a structure of stone circles from 2500–1500 BC, is on Salisbury Plain.

Salisbury steak /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n AmE* a dish made of BEEF finely cut and formed into a flat shape, then cooked in GRAVY

sa·li·va /səˈlaɪvə/ *n* [U] the natural watery liquid produced in the mouth

sa·li·va·ry /səˈlaɪvəri‖ˈsælɨveri/ *adj* [A] of saliva or the organs (**salivary glands**) producing it

sal·i·vate /ˈsælɨveɪt/ *v* [I] *tech or humor* to produce (an increased amount of) saliva in the mouth: *I was salivating at the thought of the cream cakes.* —**-vation** /ˌsælɨˈveɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Salk /sɔːk, sɔːlk/, **Jo·nas** /ˈdʒəʊnəs/ (1914–) an American scientist who produced a protection against POLIO (the **Salk vaccine**)

sal·low[1] /ˈsæləʊ/ *adj* (of the skin) rather yellow and unhealthy-looking: *a sallow complexion* —**~ness** *n* [U]

sallow[2] *n* a tree of the WILLOW family

sal·ly[1] /ˈsæli/ *n* **1** a quick attack and return to a position of defence; SORTIE **2** *fml* a clever or sharply humorous remark: *Her witty sallies made him angry.*

sally[2] *v*

sally forth/out *phr v* [I] *old use or humor* to go or come out, esp. from a safe place to meet some difficulty: *She opened the door and sallied forth to face the waiting crowd of journalists.*

Sally Ar·my /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *BrE infml for* SALVATION ARMY

salm·on /ˈsæmən/ *n* **salmon** *or* **salmons** **1** [C;U] a large fish of the northern oceans with silvery skin and pink flesh that swims up rivers to lay its eggs. It is thought of as being expensive and only for special occasions: *to go fishing for salmon | tinned salmon | smoked salmon sandwiches* **2** [U] also **salmon pink**/ˌ·· ˈ·◂/— yellowish-pink —see also ROCK SALMON

sal·mo·nel·la /ˌsælməˈnelə◂/ *n* [U] a bacterium that causes food poisoning, stomach pains, etc. Salmonella is often found in incorrectly cooked chicken and sometimes present in uncooked eggs.

salmon trout /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [C;U] a large TROUT with pink flesh

Sa·lo·me /səˈləʊmi/ in the Bible, the STEPDAUGHTER of Herod whose dancing pleased him so much that he offered her anything she wanted. She asked for the head of John the Baptist.

sal·on /ˈsælɒn‖səˈlɑːn/ *n* **1** a stylish or fashionable small shop, esp. where services rather than goods are sold: *a hairdressing salon | a beauty salon* **2** (esp. in France in the 18th century) a regularly-held fashionable gathering, esp. of writers, painters, musicians, etc., at the home of a well-known person

sa·loon /səˈluːn/ *n* **1** also **saloon car** /·ˈ· ·/*BrE*‖ **sedan** *AmE*— a car for four to six passengers, with a roof, two or four doors, and a separate enclosed space for cases, bags, boxes, etc. (**boot** *BrE*‖**trunk** *AmE*) —compare ESTATE CAR, HATCHBACK, SPORTS CAR **2** a saloon bar **3** a large public drinking place, esp. in an American town in the WILD WEST **4** a grandly furnished room for the social use of a ship's passengers

saloon bar /·ˈ· ·/ also **lounge bar**— *n BrE* a comfortably furnished room in a PUB, where drinks usu. cost a little more than in the PUBLIC BAR. Women, or men and women together, usu. sit in a saloon bar. —see also PUB

Sal·op /ˈsæləp/ an old name for Shropshire

sal·sa /ˈsælsə‖ˈsɑːl-/ *n* [U] **1** a hot SAUCE made of TOMATOES, onions, CHILLIS, etc. usu. eaten with Mexican or Spanish food: *Do you want salsa on your taco?* **2** a type of popular music based on Latin American dance music. Singers and musicians often dance at the same time as they are singing and playing.

sal·si·fy /ˈsælsɨfi/ *n* [U] a plant with purple flowers whose long fleshy root is eaten as a vegetable (but not commonly)

salt[1] /sɔːlt/ *n* **1** [U] also **common salt**, *tech* **sodium chloride**— a very common colourless or white solid substance found in the earth and in seawater which has many uses including preserving food and giving it more taste: *The vegetables need more salt. | cooking/table salt | Please pass the salt.* —see also ROCK SALT **2** [C] *tech* any of a class of chemical substances which may be formed by the combining of an acid and a BASE[1] (5) or metal —see also EPSOM SALTS, SMELLING SALTS **3 the salt of the earth** a person or people regarded as good hearted and dependable **4 take something with a grain/pinch of salt** to remain doubtful about something; not necessarily believe all of: *You should take what he says with a pinch of salt; he doesn't exactly tell lies, but he sometimes stretches the truth.* —see also **rub salt into the/someone's wounds** (RUB[1]), **worth one's salt** (WORTH)

salt[2] *v* [T] **1** to add salt to; put salt on: *Have you salted the vegetables? | I just love salted peanuts.* **2** [(**down**)] to preserve with salt: *They salted down most of the meat for later use.* **3** to put salt or other substances on (roads) to reduce the danger from ice

salt sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] *infml* to save (esp. money) for the future, perhaps dishonestly or illegally: *There were allegations that the military rulers had salted away millions of dollars in Swiss bank accounts.*

salt[3] *adj* **1** [A] formed by salty water: *a salt lake* **2** [A] preserved with salt: *salt pork* **3** containing, full of, or tasting of salt; salty: *salt tears/water* —**~ness** *n* [U] *tech*

SALT /sɔːlt/ see STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS

salt·cel·lar /ˈsɔːltˌseləʳ/ *BrE*‖**salt shaker** *AmE*— *n* a container for salt at meals, esp. a small pot with usu. one hole in the top for shaking salt out —compare PEPPER POT

Salt Lake Cit·y /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a city in W central US, the capital of Utah, best known as the centre of the MORMON religion —see colour map on pages 1374–5

salt·lick /ˈsɔːltˌlɪk/ *n* **1** a large block of a salty substance for sheep and cows to LICK (=move their tongues over) **2** a naturally salty piece of ground where animals get salt in this way

salt·pan /ˈsɔːltpæn/ *n* a natural or artificial hollow place from which salt water dries up leaving a surface of salt

salt·pe·tre *BrE* ‖ **-ter** *AmE* /ˌsɔːltˈpiːtəʳ/ *n* [U] a salty-tasting powdery substance (**potassium nitrate**) used in making GUNPOWDER and matches, and in preserving meat

salt shak·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* SALTCELLAR

salt truck /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* GRITTER

salt·wa·ter /ˈsɔːltˌwɔːtəʳ‖-ˌwɔː-, -ˌwɑː-/ *adj* [A] of or living in salty water or the sea: *saltwater plants* —opposite **freshwater**

salt·y /ˈsɔːlti/ *adj* **1** of, containing, or tasting of salt: *This soup's too salty.* **2** *old-fash* (of talk, stories, etc.) slightly improper in an amusing or exciting way; RACY: *salty humour* —**-iness** *n* [U]

sa·lu·bri·ous /səˈluːbriəs/ *adj* **1** socially desirable or RESPECTABLE: *They live in a very salubrious area.* **2** *fml*

or lit favourable to good health: *salubrious living conditions* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sal·u·ta·ry /ˈsæljʊ̯təri‖-teri/ *adj* causing or likely to cause an improvement in character, future behaviour, health, etc.: *The accident was a salutary lesson/experience; I'll never drink and drive again.*

sal·u·ta·tion /ˌsæljʊˈteɪʃən/ *n fml* **1** [C;U] (an) expression of greeting by words or action **2** [C] a word or phrase such as "Ladies and Gentlemen", "Dear Sir", "Dear Miss Jones", etc., at the beginning of a speech or letter

sa·lute[1] /səˈluːt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make a SALUTE[2] (1a) (to): *Always salute when you pass an officer!* **2** [T] *fml* to honour and praise, esp. in a formal or ceremonial way: *On this very special evening we salute the splendid work of the local police.* **3** [T] *fml* to greet, esp. with polite words or with a sign: *He saluted his friend with a wave of the hand.*

salute[2] *n* **1** [C] a military sign of recognition, such as **a** a raising of the right hand to the forehead: *He gave a smart salute.* **b** a ceremonial firing of guns or lowering of flags in honour of a person of very high rank: *a 21-gun salute* **2** [C;U] *fml* (a) greeting; salutation: *He raised his arm in salute.* **3 take the salute** (of a person of high rank) to stand while being saluted by soldiers marching past

sal·vage[1] /ˈsælvɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the act or process of saving something from destruction, esp. saving a wrecked ship or its goods from the sea: *to mount a salvage operation* **2** goods or property that are saved from being destroyed: *a sale of salvage from the wreck*

salvage[2] *v* [T (**from**)] to save (goods or property) from loss or damage: *We were unable to salvage anything when the factory burnt down.* | (fig.) *After it was revealed that he'd also stolen from his employers, there was little he could do to salvage his battered reputation.* —~**able** *adj*

sal·va·tion /sælˈveɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** something that saves or preserves from danger, loss, ruin, or failure: *After so much dry weather, this rain has been the farmers' salvation.* **2** *tech* (esp. in the Christian religion) the state of being saved from the power and effect of evil: *the salvation of souls*

Salvation Army /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Sally Army** *infml*— [*the*] a Christian organization that has military uniforms and ranks, holds simple religious services with music, and is best known for its help to poor people —compare **Church Army**

sal·va·tion·ist /sælˈveɪʃənɪ̯st/ *n* (*often cap.*) a member of the Salvation Army

salve[1] /sælv, sɑːv‖sæv/ *n* [C;U] (an) oily substance for putting on a cut, wound, sore place, etc., to help the forming of new skin; OINTMENT: *lip salve*

salve[2] *v* [T] *fml* to make (esp. uncomfortable feelings) less painful: *He felt guilty, so he tried to* **salve his conscience** *by bringing her a bunch of flowers.*

sal·ver /ˈsælvəʳ/ *n* a large metal plate for serving food, drink, etc., esp. at a formal meal: *a silver salver*

sal·vo /ˈsælvəʊ/ *n* **-vos** *or* **-voes** [(**of**)] **1** a firing of several guns at once, in a ceremony or battle: *a salvo of gunfire* **2** a sudden burst: *A salvo of boos greeted the announcement.* —compare VOLLEY[1] (1)

sal vo·lat·i·le /ˌsæl vəˈlætɪ̯li/ *n* [U] a form of SMELLING SALTS

Sal·zburg /ˈsæltsbɜːg‖ˈsɔːlzbɜːrg/ *n* a city in Austria famous for its yearly music FESTIVAL and for being where Mozart was born

Sa·mar·i·tan /səˈmærɪ̯tən/ *n* in Britain, a member of **the Samaritans**, an organization helping people who are experiencing great suffering of mind or thinking of killing themselves, and have no one to share their feelings with. The Samaritans usu. talk to people on the telephone rather than in person and the service is free. —see also GOOD SAMARITAN

sam·ba /ˈsæmbə/ *n* (a piece of music for) a quick dance of Brazilian origin

Sam·bo /ˈsæmbəʊ/ *n AmE taboo derog sl* a black man (from a story about a little black boy called Sambo who ate a lot of PANCAKES)

same[1] /seɪm/ *adj* **1** [*the, this, that, these, those*+A] not changed or different; not another or other: *"Is he still going out with the same girl?" "No, he's got a new girlfriend."* | *My father sits in the same chair every evening.* | *The broadcast was heard all over the whole country at the same time.* | *I know it was wrong, but I would do the same thing again in the same situation.* | *You've made the same mistake as last time/the same mistake that you made last time.* | *He was promoted on the same day that she was.* | *They met early in 1970 and got married later that same year.* | *Those same people who support lower taxes complain when the Government cuts services.* **2** [*the*+A] alike in (almost) every way: *Men and women should get the same pay for doing the same jobs.* | *At the party she saw another woman wearing the same dress.* | *"Do you use butter or margarine?" "It doesn't matter; it all* **amounts to/comes to the same thing."** (=has the same result) **3 at the same time: a** together **b** in spite of this; yet: *He can be very rude but at the same time you can't help liking him.* **4 by the same token** in the same way: *I agree that he hasn't given us many new ideas, but by the same token neither have we given him any.* **5 in the same boat** in the same unpleasant situation; facing the same dangers: *If you lose your job I'll lose mine, so we're both in the same boat.* **6 just/all the same** in spite of this; NEVERTHELESS: *I realize she can be very annoying, but all the same I think you should apologize for losing your temper with her.* **7 same difference** *AmE infml* no difference; the result is the same: *"But if you don't go out with Bill, Linda will." "Same difference," she shrugged.* (either way, she won't be with Bill). **8 the same old story** *infml* the usual excuse or difficulty

▷ USAGE Compare **same** and **similar. Same** suggests things that are completely unchanged or exactly alike: *I've still got the* **same** *car as I had before.* | *These two banknotes look exactly the* **same,** *though one of them is counterfeit.* **Similar** suggests things that are alike in most ways, but not in every detail: *The birds are* **similar** *in appearance, but the male is more brightly coloured.*◁

same[2] *pron* **1** (used with **the**) the same thing, person, condition, etc.: *They may look the same, but they're really quite different.* | *Thanks for helping me: I'll do the same for you sometime.* | *"Is your wife any better?" "About the same, thanks."* (=no more or less ill than before) | *Things haven't been/It's not been the same since he left.* (=life has not been so good) | *"Has he put any new ideas in the report?" "No, it's just more of the same."* (=the same ideas as before) **2** *old-fash or humor* (used without **the**) the things mentioned: *He was good at spending money but not so good at earning same.* **3 (And the) same to 'you!** *infml* (used as a reply to a greeting or as an angry reply to a rude remark): *"Happy Christmas!" "Same to you!"* | *"Go to Hell!" "And the same to you!"* **4 (the) same again, please** *infml* (an order for another drink of the same kind) —see also **all the same to** (ALL[2]), **one and the same** (ONE[1])

same[3] *adv* **1 the same (as)** in the same way (as): *These two words are pronounced differently but they're spelt the same (as each other).* **2 same as** *infml* just like: *I have my pride, same as anyone else.*

same·ness /ˈseɪmnəs/ *n* [U] **1** the state of being the same; very close likeness; SIMILARITY **2** *derog* lack of variety: *Don't you ever get tired of the sameness of the work in this office?*

same·y /ˈseɪmi/ *adj BrE infml* dull because lacking variety: *His novels tend to be very samey.*

sam·iz·dat /ˈsæmɪzdæt‖ˈsɑːmiːzˌdɑːt/ *n* [U] a system in the former USSR by which books, magazines, etc., that were forbidden by the state were secretly printed

Sa·mo·a /səˈməʊə/ a group of islands in the S Pacific, esp. Savai'i and Upoìu, officially called **Western Samoa**; capital Apia; population 169,000 (1989) —**Samoan** *n, adj*

sa·mo·sa /sæˈməʊsə/ *n* an Indian small three-sided pastry case filled with cut-up meat, vegetables, etc., and cooked in hot fat

sam·o·var /ˈsæməvɑːʳ/ *n* a large metal container used esp. in Russia to boil water for making tea

sam·pan /ˈsæmpæn/ *n* a light flat-bottomed boat used along the coasts and rivers in China and Southeast Asia

sam·ple[1] /ˈsɑːmpəl‖ˈsæm-/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a small part representing the whole; typical small quantity, thing, event, etc.: *The nurse took a sample of my blood/a blood sample.* | *I'd like to see some samples of your work.* | *Here are some sample questions from last year's exam.* | *Bring a sample* (=of URINE) *when you come to see the doctor.* **2** a small amount of a product that allows one to find out

what it is like: *They're giving away* **free samples**/*sample bottles of this new kind of cooking oil.*

sample² *v* [T] **1** to take and examine a SAMPLE¹ (1) of; test: *I sampled the wine before giving it to the others.* **2** to get to know about by experience; TRY **out**: *Once you've sampled the pleasures of country life, you won't want to live in the city.*

sam·pler /ˈsɑːmplərǁˈsæm-/ *n* **1** a decorative piece of cloth with the alphabet, family names and dates, a picture, etc., stitched on it with thread, done to show one's skill at sewing **2** a music computer which can record a sound from outside itself and then produce it at any given PITCH

Sam·son /ˈsæmsən/ a man in a Bible story who was very strong until a woman named Delilah tricked him into having his hair cut off, from which came his strength. He was then made a prisoner and blinded. His strength returned as his hair grew and he pulled down a TEMPLE upon himself and his enemies: *Edberg wouldn't allow me to cut his hair until after Wimbledon. He told me it gave him the strength of Samson.*

sam·u·rai /ˈsæmʊraɪ/ *n* **-rai** *or* **-rais** a member of a military class of high rank in Japan in former times

San An·dre·as fault /ˌsæn ændreɪəs ˈfɔːlt/ [*the*] a crack between two of the plates of the Earth's surface which forms a line from the N to the S of California. Movement of these plates causes EARTHQUAKES.

San An·to·ni·o /ˌsæn ænˈtəʊniəʊ/ a city in S Texas known for its large numbers of Mexican-Americans and for the ALAMO, where Texans were defeated by much larger numbers of Mexicans in 1836

san·a·to·ri·um /ˌsænəˈtɔːriəm/ ‖ also **sanitarium** *AmE– n* **-iums** *or* **-ia** /riə/ a kind of hospital for sick people who are getting better and need treatment, rest, etc., esp. over a long period of time

San·cho Pan·za /ˌsæntʃəʊ ˈpænzəǁˌsɑːntʃəʊ ˈpɑːn-/ the friend and companion of Don Quixote in the story by Miguel de Cervantes

sanc·ti·fy /ˈsæŋktɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to make holy: *This is sanctified ground, and we may not tread upon it.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to SANCTION² (2) —**-fication** /ˌsæŋktɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

sanc·ti·mo·ni·ous /ˌsæŋktɪˈməʊniəs◂/ *adj fml derog* disapproving of others because one thinks one is good, right, etc., and they are not; SELF-RIGHTEOUS — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

sanc·tion¹ /ˈsæŋkʃən/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* formal or official permission, approval, or acceptance: *The minister can only act in this matter with the sanction of Parliament.* **2** [C] *fml* a formal action or punishment (to be) ordered when a law or rule is broken: *The ultimate sanction is to suspend troublemakers from the debate.* **3** [C *usu. pl.*] an action, such as the stopping of trade, taken by one or more countries against a country which is breaking international law: *Western nations took economic sanctions against/imposed tough sanctions on the rebel regime.* | *Many firms were accused of sanctions-busting.* (=doing business with a country with which trade had been forbidden) **4** [C] *fml or tech* something that forces the keeping of a rule or standard: *In certain societies shame was the only sanction against wrongdoing.*

sanction² *v* [T] *fml* **1** to accept, approve, or permit, esp. officially; AUTHORIZE: *The church would not sanction the king's second marriage.* **2** to make acceptable: *It was a foolish custom, but one sanctioned by long usage.*

sanc·ti·ty /ˈsæŋktɪti/ *n* [U] **1** holiness; sacredness (SACRED): *There was an air of sanctity in the old church.* | *You should respect the sanctity of marriage.* (=esp. by not having sex outside marriage) **2** holiness of life: *a woman of great sanctity*

sanc·tu·a·ry /ˈsæŋktʃuəri,-tʃəriǁ-tʃueri/ *n* **1** [C] an area for birds or animals where they cannot be hunted and their animal enemies are controlled: *a bird sanctuary* **2** [C;U] (a place of) protection or safety from harm, esp. for a person escaping from officers of the law: *The outlaw was granted sanctuary in the church.* **3** [C] the part of a religious building considered most holy, esp. the area in front of the ALTAR in a Christian church

sanc·tum /ˈsæŋktəm/ *n* **1** a holy place inside a temple **2** *infml* a private place or room where one can be quiet and alone: *Don't disturb him when he's in his* **inner sanctum.**

Sanc·tus /ˈsæŋktəs/ [*the*] the fourth part of the religious service of the MASS, esp. when performed with music

sand¹ /sænd/ *n* [U] loose material of very small fine grains, found in wide masses along seacoasts and in deserts, and used for making cement and glass and for rubbing away roughness: *The children were playing in the sand* (=in a pile of sand)/*on the sand.* (=by the seashore) —see also SANDS, SANDY

sand² *v* [T] **1** [(DOWN)] to make smoother by rubbing with a rough surface, esp. SANDPAPER: *Sand the walls down before you paint them.* **2** to put sand on, esp. to prevent slipping

Sand /sɒndǁsɑːnd/, **George** /ʒɔːʒǁʒɔːrʒ/ (1804–76) a French female writer whose real name was Amandine Dupin. Her novels (NOVEL) *Indiana* and *Lélia* express her FEMINIST beliefs.

san·dal /ˈsændl/ *n* a light shoe made of a flat bottom with usu. leather bands to hold it on the foot, worn esp. in warm weather —see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at SHOE

►CULTURAL NOTE Sandals are connected in some people's minds with people who have LIBERAL opinions and with JESUS FREAKS.◄

san·dal·wood /ˈsændlwʊd/ *n* [U] a hard yellowish sweet-smelling south Asian wood used in making small boxes, figures, etc. Its oil is used in making soap.

sand·bag¹ /ˈsændbæg/ *n* a bag filled with sand or earth, esp. as used for piling up to form a wall or protection against explosions, rising water, etc.

sandbag² *v* **-gg-** [T] **1** to put sandbags on: *Workers were sandbagging the riverbanks to prevent flooding.* **2** [(**into**)] *AmE infml* to force (someone) roughly to do something

sand·bank /ˈsændbæŋk/ *n* a bank of sand in a river, HARBOUR, etc.

sand·bar /ˈsændbɑːr/ *n* a stretch of sand formed by moving currents, esp. across the mouth of a river

sand·blast /ˈsændblɑːstǁ-blæst/ *v* [T] to clean or cut metal, glass, etc., with a machine that sends out a high-speed stream of sand

sand·box /ˈsændbɒksǁ-bɑːks/ *n AmE* a low box holding sand for children to play in —compare SANDPIT

Sand·burg /ˈsændbɜːgǁ-bɜːrg/, **Carl** /kɑːlǁkɑːrl/ (1878–1967) an American writer and poet who won PULITZER PRIZES for his book about Abraham Lincoln and for his poetry, which included strong statements about cities and industry

sand·cas·tle /ˈsændˌkɑːsəlǁ-ˌkæ-/ *n* a small model, esp. of a castle, built of sand by children when playing on a BEACH

sand dol·lar /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a flat SEA URCHIN (an animal which lives in the ocean) which when it dies leaves behind a flat, round shell with a flower-like centre: *The children were collecting sand dollars at the water's edge.*

sand dune /ˈ· ·/ *n* a DUNE

sand·er /ˈsændəʳ/ also **sanding ma·chine** /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/— *n* a machine with a fast-moving rough surface like SANDPAPER, for making surfaces smoother

Sanders, Colonel see COLONEL SANDERS

sand fly /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small biting fly common on seashores

Sand·hurst /ˈsændhɜːstǁ-hɜːrst/ the Royal Military Academy in the village of Sandhurst in S England. It has the image of providing the best and most respected training for future British army officers among the MIDDLE-CLASS and UPPER-CLASS people: *I dined at Sandhurst among scarlet-coated officers and much silver.* | *The senior officers were mostly Sandhurst men.* —compare WEST POINT

San Di·e·go /sæn diˈeɪgəʊ/ a city in S California best known as a port and naval centre, for its ZOO, and for its excellent year round weather —see colour map on pages 1374–5

San·di·nis·ta /ˌsændɪˈniːstə◂/ *n* a member of a LEFT-WING political group in Nicaragua which overthrew (OVERTHROW) the DICTATOR Somoza in 1979 and took over the government, but who were later defeated in elections in the late 1980s. Because the Sandinistas were partly supported by COMMUNIST governments in the USSR and Cuba, the US wanted them out of power and gave money

to a group of GUERRILLA fighters called CONTRAS in an attempt to make the government fall.

S & L /ˌes ənd ˈel/ *n AmE* SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

sand·man /ˈsændmæn/ **-men** /men/ *n* [*the*] the man who makes children sleepy, according to their parents and FOLKTALES: *I'll tuck you in and soon the sandman will come and you'll have nice dreams.*

San·down Park /ˌsændaʊn ˈpɑːk‖-ˈpɑːrk/ a horse-racing course in England

sand·pail /ˈsændpeɪl/ *n AmE* a small bucket used by children when playing in sand, esp. when building sandcastles at the seaside

sand paint·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a painting made by Native Americans, esp. in the southwest, in which they use coloured sand rather than paint

sand·pa·per[1] /ˈsændˌpeɪpəʳ/ *n* [U] paper covered on one side with fine sand or a similar substance, used for rubbing over surfaces to make them smoother

sandpaper[2] *v* [T] to rub with sandpaper

sand·pip·er /ˈsændˌpaɪpəʳ/ *n* a small bird with long legs and a long beak, found esp. around muddy and sandy shores

sand·pit /ˈsændˌpɪt/ *n esp. BrE* a hollow place in the ground or an enclosed space containing sand for children to play in —compare SANDBOX

San·dring·ham /ˈsændrɪŋəm/ also **Sandringham House** /ˌ··· ˈ·/— a large country house in the E of England where the British king or queen lives for part of the year around Christmas

sands /sændz/ *n* [P] **1** a stretch of sand: *across the burning sands of the desert | golden sands* **2** *fml or lit* moments in time, as if measured by sand in an HOURGLASS, considered as passing quickly: *The sands of his life are fast running out.* (=he will soon die)

sand·shoe /ˈsændʃuː/ *n BrE* a light cloth shoe such as a PLIMSOLL

sand·stone /ˈsændstəʊn/ *n* [U] soft rock formed by sand fixed in a natural cement

sand·storm /ˈsændstɔːm‖-ɔːrm/ *n* a windstorm in which sand from a desert is blown about

sand trap /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* BUNKER (3) —see picture at GOLF

sand·wich[1] /ˈsænwɪdʒ‖ˈsændwɪtʃ, ˈsænwɪtʃ/ *n* **1** two pieces of bread, usu. spread with butter, and with some other usu. cold food between them. Many people have sandwiches for their midday meal and there are often **sandwich bars** in city centres: *a cheese|jam sandwich* —see also CLUB SANDWICH, OPEN SANDWICH **2** *BrE* a cake of two flat parts with JAM or cream between them

sandwich[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*, esp. **between**] to fit or place tightly or with difficulty between two other things: *Our car was sandwiched between two big trucks, almost touching them. | I'm very busy but I'll try to sandwich that job in between visitors.*

sandwich board /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a pair of large advertising signs for hanging at the front and back over the shoulders of a person (**sandwich man**) who walks about in public. Sandwich boards are sometimes seen which say "the end of the world is NIGH" (=coming soon). These are carried by religious people trying to warn others that they should believe in God because the world will soon end.

sandwich course /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a course of study in an industrial or professional subject at a college or university which includes periods of usu. three or six months spent working for a company

sand·y /ˈsændi/ *adj* **1** consisting of sand or having sand on the surface: *a sandy beach | My towel's all sandy!* **2** (esp. of hair) yellowish-brown —**-iness** *n* [U]

sane /seɪn/ *adj* **1** healthy in mind; not mad: *He's been certified sane.* —opposite **insane** **2** *apprec* based on or showing good reasonable thinking; sensible: *a very sane solution to a delicate problem* —see also SANITY —**~ly** *adv*

San·fo·rized /ˈsænfəraɪzd/ *adj AmE tdmk* (of cloth) treated with a process that prevents SHRINKAGE (=growing smaller) after washing: *Is this cotton Sanforized? | I only buy Sanforized shirts.*

San Fran·cis·co /ˌsæn frənˈsɪskəʊ/ a city and port in W California known for its beautiful setting and the great EARTHQUAKE and fire of 1906 which almost destroyed it. It is a financial centre and has many institutions of education and CULTURE. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

sang /sæŋ/ *past tense of* SING

sang·froid /ˌsɒŋˈfrwɑː ‖ ˌsɔːŋ-/ *n* [U] *Fr* calm courage; great self-control during danger or difficulty

san·gri·a /sæŋˈgriːə, sæn-, ˈsæŋgriə/ *n* [U] a Spanish cold drink made from red wine, fruit juice, and water

san·gui·na·ry /ˈsæŋgwɪnəri‖-neri/ *adj lit* marked by, or fond of, much wounding and killing

san·guine /ˈsæŋgwɪn/ *adj fml* quietly hopeful; expecting the best —**~ly** *adv*

a cable car in San Francisco



san·i·ta·ry /ˈsænɪtəri‖-teri/ *adj* **1** [A] of or for health, esp. the treatment or removal of human waste substances, dirt, or infection: *sanitary fittings, such as lavatories and bidets | The local* **sanitary inspector** *will check that the restaurant's kitchens are clean.* **2** clean; free from danger to health: *It's not sanitary to let flies come near food.* —see also INSANITARY

sanitary tow·el /ˈ···· ˌ··/ also **pad, sanitary napkin** *AmE*— *n* a soft pad worn between a woman's legs during her PERIOD (4) to take up the flow of MENSTRUAL blood —compare TAMPON

san·i·ta·tion /ˌsænɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U] the use of means for protecting public health, esp. by the removing and treatment of waste

sanitation work·er /ˌ··ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* DUSTMAN

san·i·tize also **-tise** *BrE* /ˈsænɪtaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** *usu. derog* to make less unpleasant, dangerous, strongly expressed, etc., in order not to offend people: *to sanitize a report* **2** to clean thoroughly; to make SANITARY

san·i·ta·ri·um /ˌsænɪˈteəriəm/ *n* **-iums** *or* **-ia** /-riə/ *AmE for* SANATORIUM

san·i·ty /ˈsænɪti/ *n* [U] the quality of being SANE: *to question someone's sanity* —opposite **insanity**

sank /sæŋk/ *past tense of* SINK

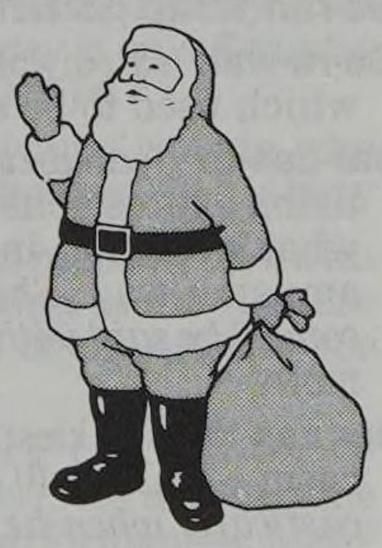
San Ma·ri·no /sæn məˈriːnəʊ/ a small country in Italy, in the Apennines, near Rimini; capital San Marino; population 23,000 (1989)

San Quent·in /sæn ˈkwentɪn/ (a town in California where there is) a large prison: *He's doing 10–20 in San Quentin.*

San·skrit /ˈsænskrɪt/ *adj, n* [U] (of or in) an ancient language of India from which many modern Indian languages are descended

sans ser·if /ˌsæn ˈserɪf, ˌsænz-/ *n* [U] (in printing) letters without SERIFS and with all strokes of equal thickness

Santa Claus



San·ta Claus /ˈsæntə klɔːz‖ˈsænti klɔːz, ˈsæntə-/ also **Santa** *infml*, **Father Christmas** *BrE*— (a person dressed as) an imaginary old man in red clothes and a long white beard who is believed by children to come down the CHIMNEY at Christmas to bring their presents

►CULTURAL NOTE Before Christmas children write letters to Santa Claus telling him what they would like for Christmas. On Christmas Eve they often leave out something for him to eat or drink. He is supposed to fly about the sky in a SLEIGH (an animal-drawn vehicle which slides along snow on two metal blades) pulled by REINDEER. Santa Claus is thought to live at the North Pole where he spends most of the year in his workshop making toys for childen with the help of elves (ELF). People think of him as a happy man who says "Ho, ho, ho": *Does your daughter still believe in Santa Claus?* —see also extra information on page 215 and colour picture on page 1212◄

San·ta Fe /ˌsæntə ˈfeɪ/ the small capital city of New Mexico, known for its long association with Mexicans and Native Americans. It is a government and tourist centre.

Santa Fe Trail /ˌ··· · ˈ·/ [*the*] an important road in the West

of the US, used by 19th-century American settlers, starting in Missouri and ending in Santa Fe

Santa Ma·ri·a /ˌsæntə məˈriːə/ one of the three ships which sailed to America with Christopher Columbus in 1492 – see also NINA, PINTA

Santa's Grot·to /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* (in Britain) a place prepared at Christmas usu. in a big shop where children pay to go in and see a man dressed as Santa Claus who listens to their requests for presents and usu. gives them a little present himself

San·ti·a·go /ˌsæntiˈɑːgəʊ/ the capital and largest city of Chile, in S America

San·to Do·min·go /ˌsæntəʊ dəˈmɪŋgəʊ/ a former COLONY of Spain on the island of Hispaniola

São Pau·lo /saʊm ˈpaʊləʊ/ a city in SE Brazil, the largest city in S America and Brazil's financial and industrial centre

São To·mé /saʊn təˈmeɪ/ an island off W Africa in the Gulf of Guinea; a former Portuguese colony; capital São Tomé; population 116,000 (1989)

sap[1] /sæp/ *n* **1** [U] the watery juice carrying food, chemical products, etc., through a plant **2** [C] *infml, esp. AmE* a stupid person likely to be tricked or treated unfairly: *Didn't you know I was joking, you sap?* **3** [C] *AmE* a COSH

sap[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to weaken or destroy, esp. during a long time: *Her long illness gradually sapped her strength.* **2** to hit with a sap (3)

sa·pi·ent /ˈseɪpiənt/ *adj lit* wise and full of deep knowledge – ~**ly** *adv* –**-ence** *n* [U]

sap·ling /ˈsæplɪŋ/ *n* a young tree

sap·per /ˈsæpəʳ/ *n BrE* a soldier whose job is doing digging and building work

sap·phire /ˈsæfaɪəʳ/ *n* [C;U] a precious stone of a transparent bright blue colour

Sap·pho /ˈsæfəʊ/ an ancient Greek poet remembered for poems about love. She is esp. admired today by LESBIANS. –**Sapphic** *adj*

sap·py /ˈsæpi/ *adj* **1** full of SAP[1] (1) **2** *AmE infml* silly; foolish

sap·wood /ˈsæpwʊd/ *n* [U] the younger outer wood in a tree, which is lighter and softer than the HEARTWOOD

sar·a·band , -bande /ˈsærəbænd/ *n* (a piece of music for) a court dance of the 17th–18th centuries

Sar·a·cen /ˈsærəsən/ *n* a name for a Muslim in former times, esp. the time of the CRUSADES

Sar·a·je·vo /ˌsærəˈjeɪvəʊ/ a city in Bosnia-Hercegovina, known esp. because the murder there of Archduke Franz Ferdinand started the First World War in 1914. It is now the capital city of Bosnia.

Sa·ra Lee /ˌseərə ˈliː/ *tdmk* an American maker of PROCESSED FOODS, best known for its frozen sweet foods

Sa·ran Wrap /səˈræn ræp/ *n* [U] *tdmk AmE for* CLINGFILM

Sa·ra·wak /səˈrɑːwək/ a state of Malaysia in NW Borneo, which used to be a British PROTECTORATE

sar·cas·m /ˈsɑːkæzəm‖ˈsɑːr-/ *n* [U] speaking or writing using expressions which clearly mean the opposite to what is felt, esp. in order to be unkind or offensive in an amusing way: *She was an hour late. "Good of you to come," he said with heavy|withering sarcasm.* –compare IRONY

sar·cas·tic /sɑːˈkæstɪk‖sɑːr-/ *adj* using or marked by sarcasm – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*: *"How kind of you," she said sarcastically when he let the door slam in her face.*

sar·coph·a·gus /sɑːˈkɒfəgəs‖sɑːrˈkɑː-/ *n* **-gi** /gaɪ/ *or* **-guses** a usu. decorated stone box for a dead body, as used in ancient times

sar·dine /ˌsɑːˈdiːn◂‖ˌsɑːr-/ *n* **1** a young small fish, esp. the PILCHARD, cooked fresh or preserved in oil and packed in flat tins **2 like sardines** *infml* packed or crowded very tightly together: *The commuters were packed into the train like sardines (in a can).*

Sar·din·i·a /sɑːˈdɪniə‖sɑːr-/ an island in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Corsica and west of Italy. It is an area of Italy with some self-government.

sar·don·ic /sɑːˈdɒnɪk‖sɑːrˈdɑːnɪk/ *adj* seeming to regard oneself as too important to consider a matter, person, etc., seriously; full of SCORN: *a sardonic smile* – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sarge /sɑːdʒ‖sɑːrdʒ/ *n infml for* SERGEANT: *Come over here, sarge!*

Sar·gent /ˈsɑːdʒənt‖ˈsɑːr-/, **John Singer** (1856–1925) an American artist who is remembered esp. for his paintings of people

Sargent, Sir Malcolm (1895–1967) an English musician who directed the playing of several British ORCHESTRAS

sa·ri , saree /ˈsɑːri/ *n* a dress consisting of a length of light cloth wrapped gracefully round the body, worn esp. by Hindu women

Sark /sɑːk‖sɑːrk/ one of the Channel Islands between England and France, politically part of Britain

sar·ky /ˈsɑːki‖ˈsɑːr-/ *adj BrE infml for* SARCASTIC

sar·nie /ˈsɑːni‖ˈsɑːr-/ *n BrE infml for* SANDWICH

sa·rong /səˈrɒŋ‖səˈrɔːŋ, səˈrɑːŋ/ *n* a loose skirt consisting of a length of cloth wrapped round the waist, as worn by Malayan women and men

sarsa·pa·ril·la /ˌsɑːspəˈrɪlə, ˌsɑːsəpə-‖ˌsæspə-, ˌsɑːrspə-/ *n* [U] a drink flavoured with SASSAFRAS

sar·to·ri·al /sɑːˈtɔːriəl‖sɑːr-/ *adj* [A] *fml or humor* concerning (the making of) men's clothes: *a man of great sartorial elegance* (=neatly and stylishly dressed) – ~**ly** *adv*

Sar·tre /ˈsɑːtrə‖ˈsɑːrtrə/, **Jean-Paul** /ʒɒn pɔːl‖ʒɑːn-/ (1905–80) French PHILOSOPHER and writer of books and plays. He is best known for his writings on EXISTENTIALISM.

SAS /ˌes eɪ ˈes/ [*the* + *sing./pl. v*] Special Air Service; a small unit in the British Army which is specially trained to work against people carrying out military attacks on those in power in a country

SASE /ˌes eɪ es ˈiː/ *AmE* self-addressed, stamped envelope; an envelope on which one writes one's own address and stamps for it to be posted to one: *Send $5 and a large SASE to receive our hamburger recipe book.* –*compare* S.A.E.

sash[1] /sæʃ/ *n* a beltlike length of cloth worn round the waist as part of a garment, or (in ceremonial dress and usu. as a mark of some honour) over one shoulder

sash[2] *n* a frame into which sheets of glass are fixed to form part of a window, door, etc.

sa·shay /sæˈʃeɪ/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *AmE infml often humor* (of a person) to move or go, esp. smoothly or easily

sash win·dow /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a window of two sashes which opens by sliding one up or down behind or in front of the other. The sashes are connected to weights inside the frame by a **sash cord** so that they do not fall down; this type of window is not used in modern buildings. –compare CASEMENT WINDOW

Sas·katch·e·wan /sæˈskætʃəwən/ a PROVINCE in Canada, bordering the US on the south

sass[1] /sæs/ *n, v AmE infml for* SAUCE[1] (2)

sass[2] *v AmE* to show disrespect through speech to (a parent, teacher, etc.): *Don't you sass me, young lady!*

sas·sa·fras /ˈsæsəfræs/ *n* [C;U] (the dried outer covering of the root of) a small Asian and N American tree

Sas·se·nach /ˈsæsənæk/ *n ScotE usu. derog* an English person: *Did you hear that some Sassenachs have bought that house down the road?*

sas·sy /ˈsæsi/ *adj AmE* **1** (of a child) disrespectful to someone in authority **2** *apprec* (of a woman) lively and bold; SAUCY

sat /sæt/ *past tense & participle of* SIT

Sat. *written abbrev. for:* Saturday

SAT /ˌes eɪ ˈtiː/ the Scholastic Aptitude Test; a two-part examination which must be taken by all students who wish to attend US universities. The PSATS, (the first tests) are usually taken during a student's JUNIOR year in HIGH SCHOOL; these results are made available to colleges and universities. Students in their SENIOR year take the SATS, and have the results sent to the colleges they hope to attend. Universities consider the results of the test (**SAT scores** or **SATs**) to help them decide which students will be offered a place. A perfect result is 1600, or 800 for the VERBAL test., 800 for the math (MATHEMATICS) test. –see also PSAT and see extra information on page 408

Sa·tan /ˈseɪtn/ *esp. fml or tech* **1** the Devil, esp. considered as the chief evil power or as God's opponent **2 Get thee behind me, Satan** *phrase from the Bible* do not encourage me to do something wrong

sa·tan·ic /sə'tænɪk/ *adj* **1** *esp. lit* extremely cruel or evil **2** of satanism: *satanic rites* —see also DARK SATANIC MILLS —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sat·an·is·m /'seɪtənɪzəm/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) the worship of the Devil —**-ist** *adj, n*

satch·el /'sætʃəl/ *n old-fash* a small bag of strong cloth or leather, usu. with a band for carrying over the shoulder: *He carried his books in his school satchel.*

sate /seɪt/ *v* [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] *fml* to satisfy with more than enough of something, esp. something bad: *Still not sated with killing, the invaders murdered thousands more of the inhabitants.*

sa·teen /sə'ti:n‖sæ-/ *n* [U] shiny cotton cloth made to look like SATIN

sat·el·lite /'sætl̩laɪt/ *n* **1** a body in space that moves round a larger one, esp. a PLANET: *The moon is a satellite of the Earth.* **2** a man-made object intended to move around the Earth, moon, etc., for some purpose: *the launch of a communications and weather satellite | The broadcast came from America by/via satellite.* **3** something, esp. a country, that is controlled by or depends on something else —compare CLIENT STATE

satellite dish /'··· ˌ·/ also **dish** — *n* an object like a dish which is fixed to the outside of a house where people wish to receive satellite television

satellite earth sta·tion /ˌ··· '· ˌ··/ *n* a station on the ground that receives radio or television signals from a station above the earth and sends them out to the local area

satellite television /ˌ··· '····, ˌ··· ··'··/ also **satellite TV** /ˌ··· ˌ· '·/— *n* [U] the broadcasting of television programmes over a wide area by the use of a satellite in space. Satellite Television in Britain has five stations of which BSkyB is the largest. —see also CABLE TELEVISION, DBS

sa·ti·ate /'seɪʃieɪt/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *fml* to satisfy (esp. physical needs) fully, esp. too fully: *We sat back, satiated after our huge meal.*

sa·ti·e·ty /sə'taɪə̯ti/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being (too much) filled or satisfied

sat·in /'sætɪ̯n/ *n* [U] a very fine smooth cloth mainly of silk, which is shiny on the front and dull on the back: *satin slippers* —see also SATINY

sat·in·wood /'sætɪ̯nwʊd/ *n* [C;U] (the very hard smooth wood of) an East Indian tree, used esp. in making beautiful furniture

sat·in·y /'sætɪ̯ni/ *adj* very pleasantly smooth, shiny, and soft: *satiny skin*

sat·ire /'sætaɪəʳ/ *n* [C (**on**);U] (a work of) literature, theatre, etc., intended to show the foolishness or evil of some person, organization, or practice in an amusing way: *His new play is a satire on the fashion industry.* —compare PARODY[1] (1)

sa·tir·i·cal /sə'tɪrɪkəl/ also **sa·tir·ic** /sə'tɪrɪk/— *adj* using or being satire: *satirical remarks* — ~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

sat·ir·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'sætɪ̯raɪz/ *v* [T] to use satire against: *a play satirizing the fashion industry*

sat·is·fac·tion /ˌsætɪ̯s'fækʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (**at, with**)] (something that gives) a feeling of happiness or pleasure: *Being able to work with children is one of the greatest satisfactions of this job. | We can look back with satisfaction on a job well done.* —opposite **dissatisfaction** **2** [U (**of**)] *fml* fulfilment of a need, desire, etc.: *the satisfaction of public demand* **3** [U] *fml* the condition of being completely persuaded; certainty: *It has been proved* **to my satisfaction** (=I am now certain) *that you are telling the truth.* **4** [U] *fml* **a** something that makes a person feel that damage done to his/her honour has been removed: *I got the satisfaction of finally being credited with the ideas he said were his.* **b** the chance to defend one's honour, esp. (in former times) by fighting a DUEL: *I demand satisfaction!*

sat·is·fac·to·ry /ˌsætɪ̯s'fæktəri◂/ *adj* good enough to be pleasing, or for a particular purpose, rule, standard, etc.: *He could not provide a satisfactory excuse for his absence. | Of all the pens he tried, only one was satisfactory. | Sales are up 20% from last year; that's very satisfactory.* — opposite **unsatisfactory** —**-rily** *adv*

sat·is·fy /'sætɪ̯sfaɪ/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** to please (someone), esp. by giving them enough: *We offered them £100, then £150, then £200, but they still weren't satisfied. | Some people are very hard to satisfy. | OK, I've done everything you asked; now are you satisfied? | They asked for champagne, but I think they'd* **be satisfied with sparkling wine.** (=would accept it as being good enough) *| a satisfied smile* —opposite **dissatisfy** **2** to be or give enough for; fulfil (a need, desire, etc.) of (someone): *Just to satisfy my curiosity, how much did you pay for your car? | He satisfied the examiner.* (=he passed his examination) **3** *fml* to be correct or good enough for (a demand, rule, standard, etc.); meet: *You can't vote until you have satisfied all the formal conditions. | x=2 satisfies the equation* $x^2=4$. **4** [(**of**) *often pass.*] to persuade completely; cause to no longer feel doubt: *I was unable to satisfy them of the truth of my story.* [+*obj*+(*that*)] *The police are satisfied that their witness is telling the truth.* —see also SELF-SATISFIED

sat·is·fy·ing /'sætɪ̯sfaɪ-ɪŋ/ *adj* giving satisfaction: *a satisfying meal* (=with enough food) *| It's a very satisfying feeling when you've done a good job.* — ~**ly** *adv*

sat·su·ma /sæt'su:mə/ *n esp. BrE* a small seedless orange-like fruit

sat·u·rate /'sætʃəreɪt/ *v* [T (**with**) *often pass.*] **1** to put as much liquid as possible into; make completely wet: *His shirt was saturated with/in blood.* **2c** to fill completely so that no more can be held: *They saturated the area with police to prevent any trouble. | The market for houses is saturated.* (=there are too many houses for sale, and not enough buyers) **3** *tech* to put as much of a solid substance as possible into (a chemical SOLUTION)

saturated fat /ˌsætʃəreɪtɪ̯d 'fæt/ *n* a fat with a particular kind of chemical structure. Saturated fats are usu. solid at room temperature, such as those found in meats, milk, cream, butter, and cheese. It is thought that eating a lot of these fats can lead to a high CHOLESTEROL level in the blood. —compare POLYUNSATURATED

sat·u·ra·tion /ˌsætʃə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the act of saturating or state of being saturated **2** extremely heavy military force used against an enemy: *The airforce commander ordered* **saturation bombing** *of the area.* **3** *tech* (of a colour) freedom from mixture with white

saturation point /··'·· ·/ *n* [S;U] a point beyond which further things cannot be accepted, added, contained, etc.: *The number of summer tourists in the area had reached saturation point.*

Sat·ur·day /'sætədi‖-ər-/(*written abbrev.* **Sat.**) *n* [C;U] the SIXTH day of the week, between Friday and Sunday.

►CULTURAL NOTE Although some people work on Saturdays most office workers do not and use Saturday for shopping and other necessary jobs in the house or outside. Some people also play or watch sport on Saturday and a lot of people go out to the cinema or for a meal, etc. on Saturday night: *I always visit my Mum on Saturdays/on a Saturday because I'm working during the week. | Many sports matches are played on Saturdays. | He'll arrive on Saturday. | (BrE infml & AmE) He'll arrive Saturday. | It happened on Saturday morning. | She left last Saturday. | We play tennis on Saturdays. | My birthday is on a Saturday this year.* —see DAY (CULTURAL NOTE)◄

Saturday girl /'··· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a girl or young woman who works in a shop only on a Saturday when the shop is busy

Saturday Night Fe·ver /ˌ··· · '··/ a film made in 1977 with John Travolta. The music and clothing in the film are now often considered to be typical of the 1970s. —see colour picture on page 685

Saturday Night Live /ˌsætədi naɪt 'laɪv ‖ -tər-/ a US television programme which began in the 1970s and became known for its COMEDY and unusual performances. Many well-known entertainers started their professional lives on this programme.

Saturday night spe·cial /ˌ··· · '··/ *n AmE* a HANDGUN of a kind easily available in the US, and often used in crimes

Sat·urn /'sætən‖-ərn/ **1** the PLANET sixth in order from the sun, and surrounded by large rings of matter floating in space —see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM **2** in Roman MYTHOLOGY, the father of Zeus and god of AGRICULTURE

sat·ur·na·li·a /ˌsætə'neɪliə‖-tər-/ *n* **-lias** *or* **-lia** /liə/ *lit* an occasion on which people enjoy themselves in a wild exciting way; ORGY

sat·ur·nine /'sætənaɪn‖-ər-/ *adj esp. lit* sad and solemn, often in a threatening way

sat·yr /'sætəʳ/ *n* **1** (in ancient Greek literature) a god usu.

represented as half human and half goat –compare FAUN **2** *lit* a man with very strong sexual desires

sauce[1] /sɔːs/ *n* **1** [C;U] a quite thick usu. cooked liquid put on or eaten with food: *The prawns were served in a delicious sauce.* | *I love ice cream with chocolate sauce.* | *tomato/apple sauce* –see also TARTAR SAUCE, WHITE SAUCE, WORCESTER SAUCE **2** [S;U] *BrE*‖**sass** *AmE infml*– rude, but often harmless, disrespectful talk, for example to a parent, teacher, etc.; CHEEK: *None of your sauce, my girl!* | *He told me I was old enough to be his mother. What a sauce!* –see also SAUCY **3 what's sauce for the goose (is sauce for the gander)** *BrE*‖**what's good for the goose is good for the gander** *AmE*– if one person (esp. female) is allowed to behave in a certain way, then so is the other person (esp. male)

sauce[2] *v BrE*‖**sass** *AmE*– [T] *infml* to speak rudely to (a parent, teacher, etc.)

sauce boat /ˈ· ·/ *n* see BOAT[1] (3)

sauce·pan /ˈsɔːspæn, -pən/ *n* a deep usu. round metal cooking pot with a handle and usu. a lid –see picture at PAN

sau·cer /ˈsɔːsəʳ/ *n* a small plate with edges curving upwards, for putting a cup on –see also FLYING SAUCER

sauc·y /ˈsɔːsi/ *adj infml* **1** *BrE*‖**sassy** *AmE*– harmlessly, and perhaps amusingly, disrespectful **2** producing sexual interest in an amusing way; RISQUE: *saucy postcards* (=with pictures containing jokes about sex) –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

Sau·di /ˈsaʊdi/ *n* a person who comes from or whose parents come from Saudi Arabia –**Saudi** *adj*

Saudi A·ra·bi·a /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ an oil producing country in SW Asia, occupying most of the Arabian PENINSULA; capital Riyadh; population 14,435,000 (1989) –**Saudi Arabian** /ˌ·· ·ˈ···◂/ *adj*

sau·er·kraut /ˈsaʊəkraʊt‖-ər-/ *n* [U] a German dish made from cut-up CABBAGE allowed to become sour by keeping it in salt

sau·na /ˈsaʊnə, ˈsɔːnə‖ˈsaʊnə/ also **sauna bath** /ˈ·· ·/– *n* (a period of sitting or lying in) a room that is specially heated to high temperatures, esp. by steam from burning wood. It is thought to be good for one's health. –compare TURKISH BATH

Saun·ders /ˈsɔːndəz‖-dərz/, **Er·nest** /ˈɜːnɫst‖ˈɜːr-/ (1935–) a wealthy British businessman who was put in prison for THEFT (=stealing) and other charges in 1990, but was let out before finishing his sentence because he appeared to be suffering from a mental illness –see also GUINNESS AFFAIR

Saunders, Jen·ni·fer /ˈdʒenɫfəʳ/ (1957–) a British actress and COMEDIENNE probably best known for her appearances with another comedienne, Dawn French, esp. in the television show *French and Saunders*

saun·ter /ˈsɔːntəʳ/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to walk in an unhurried way, and esp. in a CONFIDENT manner –**saunter** *n* [S]

saus·age /ˈsɒsɪdʒ‖ˈsɔː-/ *n* [C;U] a mixture of fresh or preserved meat with SPICES, and sometimes bread-like materials, in a tube of thin animal skin, for cooking and serving whole or for eating as cut-off pieces: *pork sausages* | *A kilo of garlic sausage, please.* | *He stuffed the chicken with sausage meat.* –see also LIVER SAUSAGE

sausage dog /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE infml for* DACHSHUND

sausage roll /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a small piece of sausage meat in a tubelike covering of pastry

sau·té[1] /ˈsəʊteɪ‖səʊˈteɪ/ *v* **-téed** *or* **-téd** /ˈteɪd/ [T] to cook quickly in a little hot oil or fat: *Sauté the onions for five minutes.*

sauté[2] *adj* [A] sautéed: *sauté potatoes*

Sau·ternes *esp. BrE* ‖ **-terne** *AmE* /səʊˈtɜːn‖-ɜːrn/ *n* [U] a sweet gold-coloured French wine

sav·age[1] /ˈsævɪdʒ/ *adj* **1** forcefully cruel or violent; fierce; FEROCIOUS: *a savage dog* | *savage anger* | *Today's newspapers made a savage attack on the unions for their refusal to negotiate.* **2** [A] *old-fash or derog* uncivilized; PRIMITIVE: *savage tribes* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

savage[2] *v* [T] (esp. of an animal) to attack and bite fiercely: *She was savaged by a mad dog.*

savage[3] *n old-fash or derog* a member of an uncivilized or undeveloped tribe or group: *These civilizations flourished while Europeans were still savages living in caves.*

sav·ag·e·ry /ˈsævɪdʒəri/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*;U] (an act of) savage behaviour; cruelty: *He beat his wife with great savagery.* | *the savageries of war*

sa·van·na , -nah /səˈvænə/ *n* [C;U] (an open flat area of) grassy land in a warm part of the world

sav·ant /ˈsævənt‖səˈvɑːnt, sæ-/ *n lit* a person having great knowledge of some subject

save[1] /seɪv/ *v* **1** [T (**from**)] to make safe from danger, harm, or destruction: *"He's fallen into the water!" "Don't worry; I'll save him."* | *He saved his friend from drowning.* | *The surgeons fought to save her life.* | *The sudden fall in interest rates saved the company from bankruptcy.* | *They hoped to save their marriage* (=prevent it from failing) *by having another baby.* | (fig.) *You* **saved my life** (=helped me when I was in a very difficult situation) *by lending me that £1000.* **2** [I (UP, **for**)] to keep and add to an amount of money for later use: *Children should learn to save.* | *We're saving (up) for a new car.* –see also SAVER, SAVINGS **3** [T] **a** to prevent or avoid the waste of (money, time, work, etc.): *It will save time if we go by car instead of walking.* | *You can save fuel if you drive at a regular speed.* | *energy-saving modern building methods* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *If you buy the family-size box it will save you £1.* **b** [(**for**)] to keep for future use or enjoyment later: *He saved his strength for the end of the race.* | *If there is any food left over, save it for later.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Will you save me a seat on the bus?* | (fig.) *You can save your apologies; I don't want them!* **4** [T (**from**)] to make unnecessary (for): *A brush with a long handle will save you from having to bend down to clean the floor.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Will you go to the shop for me? It'll save me a trip.* [(+*obj*)+*v-ing*] *If you lend me a pound, it will save (me) having to go to the bank.* | *a labour-saving gadget* **5** [T] (esp. of a GOALKEEPER) to stop (a shot or a ball) from going into the net –see also SAVE[2] **6 save one's skin/neck/bacon** *infml* to escape from a serious danger: *He lied in court to save his skin.* (=otherwise he might have been sent to prison, or punished by death) **7 save the day** to bring success when failure had seemed certain: *We thought we'd have to abandon the talks, but Sir Alfred saved the day by suggesting a compromise acceptable to both sides.* **8 to save one's life** (*usu. in negatives*) *infml* even with the greatest effort; at all: *I couldn't play the piano to save my life.* –see also FACE-SAVING

save on sthg. *phr v* [T] to avoid wasting: *We use a wood fire, to save on electricity.*

save[2] *n* (in football, HOCKEY, etc.) a quick action by the GOALKEEPER which prevents the opponents from making a point: *"Oh, good save!"* –see also SAVE[1] (5)

save[3] also **saving**– *prep fml or old use* **1** except (for): *She answered all the questions save one.* | *I agree with you, save that you have got one or two facts wrong.* **2 saving your presence** without meaning any offence to you: *Saving your presence, I don't think the suggestion is very sensible.* –see BUT (USAGE)

sav·er /ˈseɪvəʳ/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) something that prevents loss or waste: *Our new washing machine is a real time- and money-saver.* **2** *esp. BrE* a person who saves money, e.g. with a bank or BUILDING SOCIETY

Save the Child·ren Fund /ˌ· · ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] a large international organization (a CHARITY) for the care of children, esp. in poor countries

Sav·ile /ˈsævɫl/, **Sir Jimmy** (1926–) a British television personality and presenter, originally of popular music. He was given his KNIGHTHOOD for raising very large amounts of money for CHARITY and had a well-known television programme called *Jim'll Fix It.*

Savile Row /ˌsævɫl ˈrəʊ◂/ a street in London, known as the centre of the fashionable men's clothing industry, esp. high quality suits

saving grace /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the one good thing that makes something acceptable: *It was an awful film – its saving grace was the beautiful photography.*

sav·ings /ˈseɪvɪŋz/ *n* [P] money saved, esp. in a bank

savings ac·count /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* a bank account which earns INTEREST[1] (5) –compare DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

savings and loan as·so·ci·a·tion /ˌ·· · ˈ· ···ˌ··/ also **S & L, thrift** *n AmE for* BUILDING SOCIETY –see also **S & L crisis**

savings bank /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a bank which offers accounts which earn INTEREST[1] (5) (esp. formerly) **2** a bank: *Trustee Savings Bank*

savings bond /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a BOND[1] (3) sold by the US

government which can be exchanged after a fixed period of time for its cost with interest; they are often given as gifts, esp. to children

sa·viour *BrE* ‖ **-vior** *AmE* /ˈseɪvjəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] a person or thing that saves from danger or loss: *the saviour of his people* **2** [(*the*)] (*usu. cap.*) (in the Christian religion) Jesus Christ

sav·oir-faire /ˌsævwɑː ˈfeəʳ‖-wɑːr-/ *n* [U] *Fr, apprec* the ability to do and say the proper and polite thing on every social occasion

sa·vo·ry /ˈseɪvəri/ *n* **1** [U] a plant used in cooking to add taste to meat, beans, etc. **2** [C] *AmE for* SAVOURY

sa·vour[1] *BrE* ‖ **-vor** *AmE* /ˈseɪvəʳ/ *v* [T] to enjoy slowly and purposefully: *She drank the wine slowly, savouring every drop.*

savour of sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to have a (slight) quality of; suggest: *They were suspicious of any law that savoured of more government control.*

savour[2] *BrE* ‖ **-vor** *AmE*– *n* [S;U] *rather fml* **1** [**(of)**] a taste or smell **2** (power to excite) interest: *Life seems to have lost most of its savour for him.*

sa·vour·y[1] *BrE* ‖ **-vory** *AmE* /ˈseɪvəri/ *adj* **1** pleasant or attractive in taste **2** [*usu. in negatives*] *fml* morally attractive or good; WHOLESOME: *This place doesn't have a very savoury reputation.* –opposite **unsavoury** **3** *BrE* (of a dish) having the taste of meat, cheese, vegetables, salt, etc., without sugar –opposite **sweet**

savoury[2] *BrE* ‖ **-vory** *AmE*– *n* a small salty dish, sometimes served at the end of a formal meal

sa·voy / səˈvɔɪ/ *n* a type of CABBAGE with curled leaves

Savoy [*the*] an expensive and fashionable hotel in London

sav·vy /ˈsævi/ *n* [U] *apprec sl* practical knowledge and ability; KNOW-HOW

saw[1] /sɔː/ *past tense of* SEE

saw[2] *n* a hand-driven or power-driven tool for cutting hard materials, having a thin flat blade with a row of V-shaped teeth on the edge –see picture at TOOL

saw[3] *v* **sawed, sawn** /sɔːn/*esp. BrE* ‖ **sawed** *esp. AmE* [I;T] to cut with a saw: *That dead branch ought to be sawn off.* | *He sawed through a power cable by accident.* | *I sawed the logs up into little pieces.* | *She was busy sawing logs.* (=sawing a long piece of wood into logs) | (fig.) *He sawed at the loaf with a blunt bread knife.* (=pressing the knife backwards and forwards)

saw[4] *n* a short well-known saying (esp. in the phrase **old saw**)

saw·bones /ˈsɔːbəʊnz/ *n* **sawbones** *humor, esp. AmE* a doctor or SURGEON

saw·buck /ˈsɔːbʌk/ *n AmE infml* a $10 bill

saw·dust /ˈsɔːdʌst/ *n* [U] dust or very small pieces of wood made by a saw in cutting

saw·horse /ˈsɔːhɔːs‖-hɔːrs/ *n* a wooden frame to hold up something being sawn (SAW[3])

saw·mill /ˈsɔːˌmɪl/ *n* a factory where logs are cut into boards by a power-driven saw

sawn-off shot·gun /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **sawed-off shotgun** *AmE*– *n* a SHOTGUN with a short barrel, often carried as a weapon by criminals

Saw·yer /ˈsɔːjəʳ/, **Tom** the main character in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, who is a clever and daring boy but often in trouble. In one story Tom is given the job of whitewashing (WHITEWASH) a fence; he persuades his friends to do the work by making them think that he is having more fun than they are. His best friend is Huckleberry Finn. –see colour picture on page 1145

sax·i·frage /ˈsæksɪˌfreɪdʒ/ *n* [U] a small plant with bright flowers, growing esp. in rocky places

Sax·on /ˈsæksən/ *n* a member of the German group which came to live in England in the 5th century –**Saxon** *adj*

sax·o·phone /ˈsæksəfəʊn/ also **sax** /sæks/*infml*– *n* a metal musical instrument of the WOODWIND family, with a single REED, used mostly in JAZZ, military, and dance music –**-phonist** /sækˈsɒfənɪst‖ˈsæksəfəʊnɪst/ *n*

say[1] /seɪ/ *v* **said** /sed/, *3rd person sing. present tense* **says** /sez/ **1** [T **(to)**] **a** to pronounce (a sound, word, etc.): *"What did you say?" "I said, 'You're standing on my toe!' "* | *She stood on my foot and didn't even say sorry!* | *You children must learn to say "please" and "thank you".* | (fig.) *So I* **said to myself** (=thought) *"I wonder what she means".* **b** to pronounce (a formal set of words) aloud: *Have you said your prayers?* **2** [I *only in negatives and questions*;T] to express (a thought, intention, opinion, question, etc.) in words: *Don't believe anything he says.* | *"Why did she leave?" "I don't know – she didn't say."* [+(*that*)] *He says he's thirsty.* | *He said (that) he would like another drink.* | *It says in the instructions that you should mix it carefully first.* [+*wh-*] *Did she say how she got here?* | *"Do you think it will rain?" "I should say so|not."* (=I think it will/will not.) | *"What's he going to do now?" "I'd rather not say."* (=I don't want to tell anyone.)| *"Who can say?"* (=I don't know.) **3** [T *often pass.*] to give as a general opinion; claim: *Well, you know what they say – blood's thicker than water.* (=this is a common saying or PROVERB) [+(*that*)] *They say* (=it is many people's opinion that) *there's going to be an election soon.* | *It's said that he's the richest man in the world.* [+*obj*+*to-v*; *pass.*] *He's said to be the richest man in the world.* **4** [T] to show; INDICATE: *What does your watch say?* | *The fact that she gave the money back says a lot about her honesty.* (=proves she is honest) [+(*that*)] *She was smiling but her eyes said she was unhappy.* **5** [T *usu. imperative*] to suppose; suggest; ASSUME: *Would you take an offer of, say* (=for example), *£500 for your car?* | *Can you come to dinner? Say, 7.30?* [+(*that*)] *(Let's) say (that) your plan fails; then what do we do?* **6** [T+*to-v*; *obj*; *not in progressive forms*] *infml* to direct or instruct someone: *She said to meet her at the station.* | *It says on the bottle to take a spoonful every four hours.* **7 do as I say, not as I do** a phrase used in criticizing people who order others to act in a particular way, but do not themselves act in this way: *The boss is so strict about us all keeping to the correct working hours, but he always leaves half an hour early–it's do as I say, not as I do.* **8 go without saying** to be clear; not need stating: *It goes without saying that our plans depend on the weather.* **9 having said that** in spite of what has just been said; NEVERTHELESS: *She didn't do a very good job, but having said that, I don't think I could have done any better.* **10 I say** *BrE infml* **a** (used for calling someone's attention): *I say, can you see anything up there?* **b** *old-fash* (a rather weak expression of interest, anger, etc.): *"My husband is ill today." "I say! I'm sorry to hear that."* **11 not to say** and almost; or perhaps even: *He sounded annoyed, not to say furious.* | *It would be foolish, not to say mad, to sell your car.* **12 say fairer (than that)** *BrE infml* to make a more generous statement or offer: *I'll give you £20 for it; I can't say fairer than that.* **13 say for oneself/for something** to offer as an excuse or as something in favour or defence: *You're late again! What have you got to say for yourself ?* | *It was a strange idea, with very little to be said for it.* **14 Say no more!** *infml* Your/The meaning is very clear!: *"I saw him leaving her flat at 6.30 in the morning." "Say no more!"* **15 say no (to)** *infml* to refuse an offer (of): *I wouldn't say no to another drink.* (=I'd like one) **16 say someone nay** *lit or old use* to forbid someone: *If he wants to smoke in his own house, who can say him nay?* **17 say the word** *infml* to give one's approval or a signal for something to be done or started **18 say what you like** *infml* even though you may not agree: *Say what you like, I thought it was a marvellous film.* **19 say ˈwhen** (*usu. imperative*) *infml* to tell someone when to stop, esp. when they are pouring a drink

▷ USAGE The answer to "say when" is "When," but it is also acceptable to say "Stop", "That's enough, thank you," etc.◁

20 that is to say: a also **i.e.** *abbrev.*– expressed another (more exact) way: *Let's go back to the original plan, that is to say you go ahead by plane and I'll follow by car with the equipment.* **b** or at least: *He's coming; that's to say he promised to.* **21 to say nothing of** without even considering; not to mention (MENTION[1]) (4): *Three people were badly hurt, to say nothing of the damage to the building.* **22 What do you say?** *infml* You'll agree, won't you?: *Let's go into business together; what do you say?* | *What do you say we go into business|to going into business together?* **23 when all is said and done** it must be remembered that: *When all's said and done, he's only a little kid still; don't expect too much too soon.* **24 you can say ˈthat again** *infml* (used for expressing strong agreement): *"It's hot today." "You can say that again!"* (=yes, it's extremely hot) **25 You don't say (so)!** *infml* (an expression of slight surprise, often used in a SARCASTIC

way) **26 You said it!** *infml* **a** I did not want to say that, but I agree with you: *"It's wrong again, but then I was never any good at maths." "You said it!"* **b** *esp. AmE* You're right; I agree: *"Let's go home." "You said it! I'm tired."* —see also **can't say boo to a goose** (BOO[1]), **say uncle** (UNCLE)

▷ USAGE Compare **say, tell,** and **inform. Say** is nearly always transitive and cannot have a person as its object: *He* **said,** *"I'm tired".* | *He* **said** *that he was tired.* | *He* **said** *a few words then sat down.* **Tell** is nearly always transitive and can have one object: *He* **told** *a funny story.* | *He* **told** *us about his adventures.* or two objects, one of which must be a person: *He* **told** *us a funny story.* **Inform** (*fml*) is always transitive and its object is always a person: *He* **informed** *us that he was tired.* Of these words, only **say** can be used with the actual words spoken: *He* **said,** *"Open the door"*, and only **tell** can be used with commands: *He* **told** *me to open the door.* —see also SPEAK (USAGE), TALK (USAGE)◁

say[2] *n* [S;U (**in**)] **1** (a) power or right of (sharing in) acting or deciding: *The workpeople had no say in how their factory was run.* | *Haven't I got any say in where I sleep tonight?* **2 have/say one's say** *infml* to have/use the chance to say something, esp. to express one's opinion in a determined way: *He always has to have his say, even if he knows nothing about the subject.*

say[3] *interj AmE infml* (used for expressing surprise or a sudden idea): *Say, haven't I seen you before somewhere?*

Say·ers /ˈseɪəz‖-ərz/, **Dor·o·thy** /ˈdɒrəθi‖ˈdɔː-/ **L** (1893–1957) English writer very well-known for her DETECTIVE stories which include the character Lord Peter Wimsey

say·ing /ˈseɪ-ɪŋ/ *n* a well-known wise statement: *"There's no smoke without fire",* **as the saying goes.** (=that is what people often say)

Sayle /seɪl/, **A·lex·ei** /əˈleksi/ (1952–) an actor, writer and COMEDIAN from Liverpool who appeared in the British television programme *The Young Ones* among other things

say-so /ˈ· ·/ *n* [(**on**) S (**of**)] *infml* **1** a personal statement without proof: *Why should I believe it just on your say-so?* (=because you have said it) **2** permission: *I was allowed to come home from hospital on the doctor's say-so.*

S-bend /ˈes bend/ *BrE*‖**S-curve** *AmE*– *n* **1** a turn in the road in the shape of an "S", considered dangerous to drivers **2** a piece of waste pipe in the shape of an "S" which keeps bad smells out of a building

SC *written abbrev. for:* SOUTH CAROLINA

scab /skæb/ *n* **1** [C] a hard mass mainly of dried blood which forms on the skin over a cut or wound while it is getting better **2** [U] **a** any of various diseases causing hard spots on plants **b** scabies in animals **3** [C] *derog sl* a worker who works while others in the same workplace are on STRIKE[2] (1); BLACKLEG —compare STRIKEBREAKER

scab·bard /ˈskæbəd‖-ərd/ *n* a usu. leather or metal tube, for hanging from a belt, enclosing the blade of a sword, knife, etc.; SHEATH

scab·by /ˈskæbi/ *adj* **1** covered with scabs or diseased with scab or scabies **2** (esp. children's *sl* (of a person) nasty, unpleasant

sca·bies /ˈskeɪbiz/ *n* [U] a skin disease marked by scabs and an unpleasant itching (ITCH[1]) sensation

sca·bi·ous /ˈskeɪbiəs/ *n* [U] a European plant with usu. light purple flowers

sca·brous /ˈskeɪbrəs/ *adj lit derog* unpleasant by association with improper or shocking subjects; RISQUE

scads /skædz/ *n* [P (**of**)] *AmE infml* large numbers or amounts: *There were scads of people at the concert.*

Sca·fell Pike /ˌskɔːfel ˈpaɪk/ a mountain in the Lake District, NW England, the highest in England

scaf·fold /ˈskæfəld, -fəʊld/ *n* **1** a structure built up from usu. metal poles and boards, esp. round a building being built, painted, or repaired, for workmen to stand on **2** (esp. in former times) a raised stage for the killing of criminals by hanging or by cutting off their heads: *to mount the scaffold* **3** *AmE* for CRADLE[1] (4)

scaf·fold·ing /ˈskæfəldɪŋ/ *n* [U] poles and boards (to be) built into a system of scaffolds

scag /skæg/ *n* [U] *sl for* HEROIN

sca·lar /ˈskeɪlə[r]/ *adj, n tech* (of) a quantity that has size but no direction and is represented as a point on a SCALE[1] (1) —compare VECTOR (1)

scal·a·wag /ˈskæləwæg/ *n esp. AmE for* SCALLYWAG

scald[1] /skɔːld/ *v* [T] **1** to burn (skin) with hot liquid: *He scalded his tongue on/with the hot coffee.* | *They were scalded by steam from the burst pipe.* **2** *tech* to heat (esp. milk) until it is almost boiling

scald[2] *n* a skin burn from hot liquid or steam

scald·ing /ˈskɔːldɪŋ/ *adj* extremely hot: **scalding hot** *water* | (fig.) *The report was subjected to scalding criticism in the papers.*

scale[1] /skeɪl/ *n* **1** [C] a set of numbers or standards for measuring or comparing: *The force of the wind is measured on a standard scale of 0–12.* | *Where do secretaries come on the company's pay scale?* | *On a scale of one to ten, how do you rate his performance?* | *a long way down the scale* —see also SLIDING SCALE **2** [C] **a** a set of marks, esp. numbers, on an instrument at exactly fixed distances apart, esp. for measuring: *a ruler with a metric scale* | *the scale on a barometer* **b** a piece of wood, plastic, etc., with such marks along the edge **3** [C;U] a rule or set of numbers comparing measurements on a map or model with actual measurements: *a scale of 1 inch to the mile* | *a scale of 1:25,000* | *The plans of the building were drawn precisely* **to scale.** (=showing all the parts in the same relationship to each other as the parts of the actual building) | *He built a* **scale model** *of the aircraft carrier.* (=exactly the same in all details, but much smaller) **4** [C;U] size or level in relation to other things or to what is usual: *a large-scale business operation* | *We are now seeing unemployment on an unprecedented scale.* | *Many companies are now expanding to benefit from* **economies of scale.** (=being able to produce things more cheaply by doing so in large quantities) **5** [C] a set of musical notes in order, upward or downward, and at fixed separations: *a scale in the key of A* (=with the note A for its base) | *A pianist must keep practising his scales.* **6** [C] *esp. AmE* SCALES —see also FULL-SCALE

scale[2] *n* **1** [C] any of the many small flat stiff pieces forming (part of) the outer body covering of some animals, esp. fish, snakes, etc. **2** [U] greyish material forming around the inside of hot water pipes, a pot in which water is boiled, etc.; FUR[1] (3) **3 the scales fell from my eyes** *lit or fml* I was suddenly able to see what had always been clear to others —see also SCALY

scale[3] *v* [T] to remove the SCALES[2] (1) from: *Scale the fish before cooking them.* —see also DESCALE

scale[4] *v* [T] **1** to climb up (something steep), esp. using equipment to help one: *The commandos scaled the cliff.* **2** [+*obj*+UP/DOWN] to increase or reduce, esp. by a fixed rate: *The company has begun to scale down its operations in Africa.*

scale[5] *v* [L+*n*] *BrE infml* (esp. of a BOXER) to weigh (the stated amount)

sca·lene /ˈskeɪliːn/ *adj* [A] *tech* (of a TRIANGLE) having no sides equal in length —compare EQUILATERAL, ISOSCELES

scales /skeɪlz/ also **scale** *esp. AmE*– *n* [P] **1** a pair of pans for weighing an object by comparing it with a known weight; BALANCE: *Put it on/in the scales.* —see PAIR (USAGE) **2** a weighing machine: *bathroom scales* —see also **tip the scales** (TIP[3]), and see picture at KITCHEN

Scales, Dame Pru·nel·la /pruːˈnelə/ (1932–) an English actress known for her work on radio, television, and in theatre. She played John Cleese's wife, Sybil, in the British television SERIES *Fawlty Towers.*

scales of jus·tice /ˌ· · ˈ·· [*the*+P] a pair of SCALES (1) used to represent JUSTICE —see colour picture on page 751

scal·lion /ˈskæljən/ *n AmE for* SPRING ONION

scal·lop[1] **, scol-** /ˈskɒləp‖ˈskɑː-/ *n* **1** a sea animal (a MOLLUSC) that is used for food and lives inside a pair of large wavy-edged shells that can be used as little dishes **2** (any of) a row of small curves forming an edge or pattern: *a dress with scallops round the neck*

scallop[2] **, scol-** *v* [T] **1** to cut or make scallops in (an edge or line): *a dress with a scalloped neck* **2** *AmE* to bake in a cheesy or creamy liquid: *scalloped potatoes*

scal·ly·wag /ˈskæliwæg/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **scalawag** *AmE*– *n usu. humor* a trouble-making or dishonest person, esp. a child

scalp[1] /skælp/ *n* **1** the skin on the top of the human head, where hair grows **2** *infml* a clear mark of victory over the stated person: *He's out for the minister's scalp.* (=wants him to admit defeat and leave his job)

scalp[2] *v* [T] **1** (esp. of a Native American in former times) to cut off the scalp of (a dead enemy) as a mark of victory **2** *AmE infml* to buy and then resell at very high prices for profit: *He'd been scalping theatre tickets.*

scal·pel /ˈskælpəl/ *n* a small sharp knife used by doctors in operations, for fine work on models, by some kinds of artist

scalp·er /ˈskælpəʳ/ *n AmE for* TOUT[2]

scal·y /ˈskeɪli/ *adj* covered with SCALES[2] (1) or SCALE[2] (2) **–-iness** *n* [U]

scam /skæm/ *n sl* a clever and dishonest plan or course of action

scamp /skæmp/ *n infml* a trouble-making but usu. playful child: *Come back here with my hat, you young scamp!*

scam·per /ˈskæmpəʳ/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to run quickly taking short steps, usu. playfully or (esp. of a small animal) when frightened: *Giggling, the children scampered back into the house.*

scam·pi /ˈskæmpi/ *n* [U] (a dish made from) large PRAWNS

scan[1] /skæn/ *v* **-nn-** **1** [T **(for)**] to examine closely using a regular plan or fixed method, esp. making a search for something: *We scanned/The radar scanned the sky for enemy planes.* **2** [T] to look at quickly without careful reading, often looking for a particular thing: *I scanned the newspaper while I waited for the train.* | *She scanned the list of names to see if hers was on it.* **3** [I;T] *tech* **a** (of poetry) to have a regular pattern of repeated beats according to fixed rules **b** to find or show such a pattern in (a poem or line of poetry) –see also SCANSION **4** [T] *tech* (of a beam of ELECTRONS) to be directed to (a surface) so as to cover it with lines which are close together, as in the making of a television picture –see also SCANNER

scan[2] *n* an act of scanning: *The doctors gave him an ultrasonic brain scan.* | *to conduct a scan of the adult population*

scan·dal /ˈskændl/ *n* **1** [C] (something that causes) a public feeling that something is improper or shocking: *The minister is at the centre of a recent scandal over revelations about his financial interests.* | *the Westminster sex scandal that broke* (=became public knowledge) *in the mid-1980s* | (fig.) *The price of petrol is a scandal!* (=is much too high) **2** [U **(about)**] true or false talk which brings harm, shame, or disrespect to someone: *I'm not interested in scandal about the neighbours!* –see also SCANDALOUS

scan·dal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈskændəl-aɪz/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to offend (someone's) feelings of what is right or proper: *I was absolutely scandalized to hear that the council has demolished that lovely old building.*

scan·dal·mon·ger /ˈskændəlˌmʌŋgəʳ‖-ˌmɑːŋ-, -ˌmʌŋ-/ *n derog* a person who spreads scandal

scan·dal·ous /ˈskændələs/ *adj* offensive to feelings of what is right or proper: *It's scandalous that you still haven't been paid.* **–~ly** *adv*

Scan·di·na·vi·a /ˌskændɨˈneɪviə/ **1** an area of N Europe consisting of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and usu. Finland and Iceland **2** the piece of land in N Europe consisting of Norway and Sweden

Scan·di·na·vi·an /ˌskændɨˈneɪviən◂/ *n* a person who comes from, or whose parents come from Scandinavia – **Scandinavian** *adj*

scan·ner /ˈskænəʳ/ *n* an instrument for scanning (SCAN[1] (1,4)): *Using a scanner, we can look at the unborn foetus in the womb.*

scan·sion /ˈskænʃən/ *n* [U] (the act of showing) the way a line of a poem SCANS[1] (3a)

scant /skænt/ *adj* hardly enough: *He paid scant attention to what was said.*

scant·y /ˈskænti/ *adj* hardly (big) enough in size or quantity; almost too small, few, etc.; MEAGRE: *a scanty breakfast* **–-ily** *adv* : *photos of* **scantily-clad** *girls* (=with hardly any clothes on) **–-iness** *n* [U]

Sca·pa Flow /ˌskɑːpə ˈfləʊ/ an area of sea between two of the Orkney Islands in N Scotland. It was an important naval base during the First World War and 71 German warships which had surrendered (SURRENDER) were sunk here.

scape·goat /ˈskeɪpgəʊt/ *n* a person or thing taking the blame for the fault of others, often unwillingly –compare WHIPPING BOY

scap·u·la /ˈskæpjʊ̯lə/ *n med for* SHOULDER BLADE –see picture at SKELETON

scar[1] /skɑːʳ/ *n* a mark remaining on the skin or on an organ from a wound, cut, etc.: *That cut will leave a nasty scar.* | *Scar tissue began to form over the wound.* | (fig.) *The country still bears the scars of the recent war.*

scar[2] *v* **-rr-** [T] to mark with a scar: (fig.) *The terrible experience had* **scarred** *him* **for life.** (=had a deep and long-lasting effect on him)

scar·ab /ˈskærəb/ *n* **1** also **scarab bee·tle** /ˈ·· ˌ··/– a large black BEETLE **2** a representation of this, often in a small stone, used in ancient Egypt for decoration and as a sign of life after death

Scar·borough /ˈskɑːbərə‖ˈskɑːrbɜːrəʊ/ a town on the NE coast of England which is a popular place for people from Yorkshire, esp. WORKING-CLASS people, to go for the day or for their holidays

scarce[1] /skeəs‖skeərs/ *adj* **1** not much or many compared with what is wanted; hard to find; not common: *Good fruit is scarce in winter, and costs a lot.* –compare COMMON[1] (1) **2 make oneself scarce** *infml* to go away or keep away, esp. in order to avoid trouble –see RARE (USAGE)

scarce[2] *adv lit* hardly; scarcely: *I could scarce believe my eyes.*

scarce·ly /ˈskeəsli‖ˈskeər-/ *adv* **1** hardly; almost not: *Scarcely had he arrived when he had to leave again.* | *She spoke scarcely a word of English/scarcely spoke a word of English.* **2** (almost) certainly not: *"You should have gone in." "Well, I could scarcely have gone in there while they were undressing, could I!"* –see HARDLY (USAGE)

scar·ci·ty /ˈskeəsɨti‖ˈskeər-/ *n* [C;U **(of)**] a state of being scarce; lack: *the present scarcity of labour*

scare[1] /skeəʳ/ *v* **1** [T] to cause sudden fear to; frighten: *Don't let the noise scare you; it's only the wind.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to cause to go or do something by frightening: *If you make a noise you'll scare off the animals.* | *The high price is scaring away possible buyers.* | *The announcement scared many politicians into voting for the change in the law.* **3** [I] to be frightened: *I don't scare easily, you know!* **4 scare the hell/shit out of** *taboo* to frighten extremely –see also SCARED, SCARY

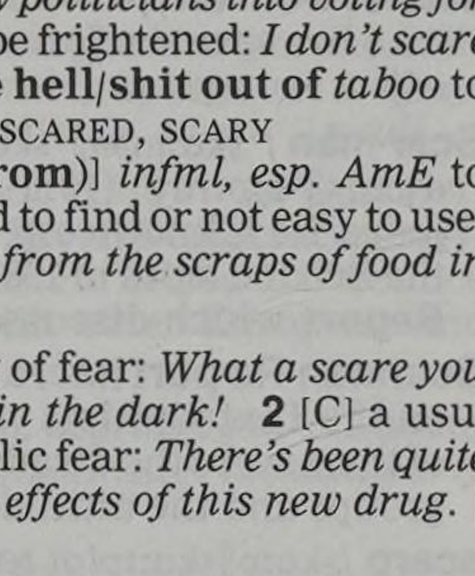
scare sthg. **up** *phr v* [T (**from**)] *infml, esp. AmE* to make from things that are hard to find or not easy to use: *I'll see if I can scare up a meal from the scraps of food in the kitchen.*

scare[2] *n* **1** [S] a sudden feeling of fear: *What a scare you gave me, appearing suddenly in the dark!* **2** [C] a usu. mistaken or unreasonable public fear: *There's been quite a scare about the possible side effects of this new drug.* | *a recent series of bomb scares*

scare[3] *adj* [A] intended to cause fear: *The newspapers have been printing scare stories about a possible war.*

scare·crow /ˈskeəkrəʊ‖ˈskeər-/ *n* **1** an object (often old clothes hung on sticks) in the shape of a person, set up in a field to keep birds away from crops **2** *infml, usu. humor derog* a very (thin and) untidy-looking person

scarecrow



scared /skeəd‖skeərd/ *adj* **1** [**(of)**] full of fear; frightened: *their scared faces* | *I'm scared of snakes.* | *"Why won't you come on the trip? Are you scared?"* [+*to-v*/*(that)*] *I'm scared to fly in a plane/scared that it might crash.* **2 to be scared stiff/silly/(half) to death/out of one's wits** to be extremely frightened –see FRIGHTENED (USAGE)

scared·y cat /ˈskeədi kæt‖ˈskeər-/ *n infml derog* (used esp. by children) a scared person

scare·mon·ger /ˈskeəˌmʌŋgəʳ‖ˈskearˌmɑːŋ-, -ˌmʌŋ-/ *n derog* a person who spreads reports intended to cause a public SCARE; ALARMIST

scare sto·ry /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a story in the newspapers or which

people are telling others which makes people worried about something which is not really worrying: *All this stuff in the papers about the dangers of eating eggs, they're just scare stories, aren't they?*

scare·y /ˈskeəri/ *adj* SCARY

scarf[1] /skɑːf‖skɑːrf/ *n* **scarfs** *or* **scarves** /skɑːvz‖skɑːrvz/ a piece of cloth, usu. long and narrow or sometimes (esp. for women) square, for wearing round the neck, head, or shoulders for warmth or decoration

scarf[2] *vi* [I (up/down)] *AmE infml* eat eagerly; SCOFF[3]: *We scarfed down three pizzas after the movie.*

Scar·gill /ˈskɑːgɪl‖ˈskɑːr-/, **Arthur** (1938–) the president of the British National Union of Mineworkers, often in disagreement with the Conservative government for his strong defence of miners' rights, esp. during the STRIKE[2] (1) of 1984–1985

scar·i·fy /ˈskeərɨfaɪ, ˈskærɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** to break up and loosen the surface of (a road or field) with a pointed tool **2** *med* to make small cuts on (an area of skin) with a sharp knife **3** *lit* to attack fiercely in words **–-fication** /ˌskeərɨfɨˈkeɪʃən, ˌskæ-/ *n* [U]

Scar·lat·ti /skɑːˈlæti‖skɑːr-/, **Do·men·i·co** /dɒˈmenɪkəʊ‖dəʊ-/ (1685–1757) an Italian writer of music, mainly for the HARPSICHORD, for which he wrote over 500 pieces

scar·let /ˈskɑːlɨt‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* having a very bright red colour: *His face was scarlet with embarrassment.* **–scarlet** *n* [U]

scarlet fe·ver /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **scar·la·ti·na** /ˌskɑːləˈtiːnə‖-ɑːr-/ *n* [U] a serious and easily-spread disease, esp. of children, marked by a painful throat and red spots on the skin

Scarlet Let·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/, **The** a book by Nathaniel Hawthorne in which the main female character must wear a large red letter A for being an ADULTERESS

scarlet pim·per·nel /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a PIMPERNEL with bright red flowers

Scarlet Pimpernel, The a book by Baroness Orczy about an Englishman who, using a number of DISGUISES, helped people from noble families escape from France during the REVOLUTION. He took a flower, the scarlet pimpernel, as his sign and was therefore called The Scarlet Pimpernel. –see also **they seek him here** (SEEK)

scarlet wom·an /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n old-fash, euph or humor* a woman who has sexual relations with many different partners, esp. a PROSTITUTE

Scar·man /ˈskɑːmən‖ˈskɑːr-/, **Lord Les·lie George** /ˈlezli dʒɔːdʒ‖-dʒɔːrdʒ/ (1911–) an English BARRISTER and judge. He is known esp. for being head of the inquiry into the Brixton RIOTS in 1981 and for producing the **Scarman Report** which discussed the causes of the riots.

Scarman Re·port [*the*] a report by Lord Justice Scarman on the Toxteth Riots which said that two of the causes of them were the disadvantages suffered by some racial groups and the attitude of the police

scarp /skɑːp‖skɑːrp/ *n tech* a line of natural cliffs

scar·per /ˈskɑːpəʳ‖-ɑːr-/ *v* [I] *BrE sl* to run away: *Here come the police; we'd better scarper.*

scarves /skɑːvz‖skɑːrvz/ *pl. of* SCARF

scar·y /ˈskeəri/ *adj infml* causing or marked by fear: *a scary dark street | the scariest story I ever heard*

scat[1] /skæt/ *v* [I *usu. imperative*] *infml* to go away fast: *Come on, you kids, scat!*

scat[2] *n* [U] a style of JAZZ singing without real words, when the voice is used to sound like a musical instrument

scath·ing /ˈskeɪðɪŋ/ *adj* (of speech or writing) bitterly cruel in judgment: *scathing criticism* –see also UNSCATHED **–~ly** *adv*

sca·tol·o·gy /skæˈtɒlədʒi‖-ˈtɑː-/ *n* [U] (writing marked by) a nasty or dirty interest in sex or EXCREMENT **–-gical** /ˌskætəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj*

scat·ter[1] /ˈskætəʳ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to separate or cause (a group) to separate widely: *The searchers scattered all over the countryside looking for her. | The birds scattered at the sound of the gun. | The gunshot scattered the birds.* **2** [T] to spread widely in all directions (on) (as if) by throwing: [+*obj*+**on, over**] *The farmers were scattering seed on the fields.* [+*obj*+**with**] *They scattered the fields with seed.* | (fig.) *He scatters money about as if he were rich.* **3 scatter (something) to the four winds** to (cause to) be thrown or sent violently in all directions –compare SPRINKLE[1] (1)

scatter[2] also **scat·ter·ing** /ˈskætərɪŋ/– *n* [S (**of**)] a small number or amount separated widely (as if) by scattering: *a scatter(ing) of telephone calls during the day*

scat·ter·brain /ˈskætəbreɪn‖-ər-/ *n infml* a likeable but careless, forgetful, or unthinking person **– ~ed** *adj* : *He's so scatterbrained I sometimes think he'd forget his own name!*

scat·tered /ˈskætəd‖-ərd/ *adj* small and far apart; widely and irregularly separated: *villages scattered among the hills | The weather forecast says we'll have* **scattered showers** *today.*

scat·ty /ˈskæti/ *adj BrE infml* slightly mad or scatterbrained **–-tiness** *n* [U]

scav·enge /ˈskævɨndʒ/ *v* [I;T] **1** [(**on**)] (of an animal) to feed on (waste or decaying flesh): *homeless dogs scavenging (on) kitchen waste* **2** [(**for**)] to search for or find (food, usable objects, etc.) at no cost, esp. among waste or unwanted things: *old men scavenging (for food) in dustbins | We might be able to scavenge a few useful bits and pieces from that wrecked car.*

scav·eng·er /ˈskævɨndʒəʳ/ *n* **1** a creature, such as the VULTURE or JACKAL, that SCAVENGES (1) **2** a person who SCAVENGES (2)

SCE /ˌes siː ˈiː/ Scottish Certificate of Education; the examination board of the Scottish Education Department which sets three levels of examination in a range of subjects taken in Scottish schools, regarded as important by universities and employers. SCE **'O' Grades** are taken at 15 or 16, SCE **Highers** are taken a year later, and Sixth Year Studies are taken a year later in the last year at school. –see also extra information on page 408

sce·na·ri·o /sɨˈnɑːriəʊ‖-ˈnæ-, -ˈne-/ *n* **-rios** **1** a written description of the action to take place in a film, play, etc. **2** a description of a possible course of action or events: *He outlined several convincing scenarios for the outbreak of a nuclear war.* –see also NIGHTMARE SCENARIO, WORST CASE SCENARIO

scene /siːn/ *n* **1** [C] **a** (in a play) any of the divisions, often within an act, during which there is no change of place or time: *Hamlet, Act 5, Scene ii* **b** (in a film, broadcast, etc.) a single piece of action in one place: *a love scene | And now the scene shifts to the warehouse, where the murderer is lying in wait.* | (fig.) *I'm getting bored with this job; I could do with a* **change of scene.** **2** [C] an event or course of action regarded as like something in a play or film: *Angry scenes in Parliament followed the minister's statement.* **3** [C] a place seen (as if) in a picture: *a peaceful country scene | a painter of street scenes* **4 a** [*the*+S (**of**)] a place where an event or action happens: *These objects were found at* **the scene of the crime.** | *Our reporter was the first person on the scene.* **b** [C (**of**)] such a place marked by the stated quality: *After the train crash, the station was a scene of absolute panic.* **5** [C] *derog* a show of anger or feelings, esp. between two people in public: *I'm ashamed of you,* **making a scene** *in the restaurant like that!* **6** [S] **a** *infml* an area of the stated activity: *What's new on the pop scene? | to dominate the political scene* **b** *AmE* situation: *We walked into a really bad scene.* **7** [S] *old-fash sl* the sort of thing a person likes: *Classical music isn't really my scene.* **8 behind the scenes** out of sight; secretly: *Such decisions are made behind the scenes, without public knowledge.* **9 (come) on the scene** *infml* (to become) present: *He came on the scene just when his country needed a great man to lead them.* **10 set the scene** to provide a base for (future talk or happenings): *The unjust peace agreement set the scene for another war.* –see also **steal the scene** (STEAL[1]); see SCENERY (USAGE)

sce·ne·ry /ˈsiːnəri/ *n* [U] **1** natural surroundings, esp. in beautiful and open country –see also SCENIC **2** the set of painted backgrounds and other articles used on a theatre stage

▷ USAGE Compare **scenery, landscape, view,** and **scene. Scenery** [U] is the general appearance of part of the country, considered from the point of view of beauty: *We passed through some beautiful* **scenery** *on our journey through the Lake District.* A **landscape** [C] is any combination of hills, valleys, fields, etc., seen in a particular area: *The* **landscape** *was typical of the Lake District, with high mountains, lakes, and deep valleys.* **View** [C] is used to talk about what you see at a distance from a particular place, considered from the point of view of how much you are able to see: *You'll*

get a fine **view** *of the town from the top of the hill.* (=you will be able to see a lot of the town) A **scene** [C] is what you see both close up and at a distance, and may include people and movement: *a happy* **scene** *of children playing in the park.*◁

scene·shift·er /ˈsiːnˌʃɪftəʳ/ *n* a worker who moves stage scenery in a theatre

sce·nic /ˈsiːnɪk/ *adj* of or showing (attractive) natural scenery: *Let's take the* **scenic route,** *along the coast.* | *a scenic poster* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

scent[1] /sent/ *n* **1** [C] a smell, esp. **a** a particular usu. pleasant smell: *the scent of roses* **b** as left by an animal and followed by hunting dogs: *The hounds followed the stag's scent.* | (fig.) *He managed to throw his pursuers off his scent.* (=escaped from them) **2** [U] *esp. BrE for* PERFUME[1] **3** [(*the*) S] a way to discover something; TRACK: *This scientist thinks he's* **on the scent** *of a cure for heart disease, although others think he's following* **a false scent.** —~**less** *adj*

scent[2] *v* [T] **1** (esp. of an animal) to smell, esp. to tell the presence of by smelling: *The dogs had scented a fox.* **2** to get a feeling or belief of the presence or fact of (esp. something bad); SUSPECT: *She scented danger.* [+(*that*)] *I scented that all was not well.* **3** [(**with**) *usu. pass.*] to fill with a SCENT[1] (1a,2): *The air was scented with spring flowers.*

Scep·ter'd isle /ˌseptəd ˈaɪl‖-tərd-/ *n* **this scepter'd isle** *quote* Great Britain (from the play *Richard II* by William Shakespeare): *Perhaps the only permanent solution is to desert this scepter'd isle for warmer climes.*

scep·tic *BrE* ‖ **skep-** *AmE* /ˈskeptɪk/ *n* a person who is sceptical, esp. about the claims made by a religion

scep·ti·cal *BrE* ‖ **skep-** *AmE* /ˈskeptɪkəl/ *adj* [(**of, about**)] unwilling to believe a claim or promise; doubting; distrustful: *Everyone says our team will win, but I'm sceptical (of/about it).* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

scep·ti·cis·m *BrE* ‖ **skep-** *AmE* /ˈskeptəˌsɪzəm/ *n* [U] a doubting state or habit of mind; dislike of believing without certainty; doubt: *Their claim is being treated with some scepticism in Washington.*

scep·tre *BrE* ‖ **-ter** *AmE* /ˈseptəʳ/ *n* a short rod carried by a king or queen on ceremonial occasions as a sign of power —compare MACE[1]

sched·ule[1] /ˈʃedjuːl‖ˈskedʒʊl, -dʒəl/ *n* **1** a planned list or order of things to be done, dealt with, etc.: *to draw up a factory production schedule* | *an exhausting/a very full schedule* | *to stick to/keep one's schedule* **2** [(**of**)] a formal list, such as **a** a list of prices: *a schedule of postal charges* **b** *esp. AmE* a timetable of trains, buses, etc. **c** *fml* a list of details related to some other matter in writing: *a schedule of repairs attached to a builder's estimate* **3 ahead of/on/behind schedule** before/at/after the planned or expected time: *We finished the project ahead of schedule.*

schedule[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**for**) *usu. pass.*] to plan for a certain future time: *The meeting is scheduled for Thursday.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *It is scheduled to take place on Thursday.* **2** to put (a flight, train, etc.) into a timetable; make a regular service: *We're trying to schedule another early morning train to London.*

scheduled flight /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* an AEROPLANE service which is part of a timetable and flies at the same time every day or every week: *We're going by scheduled flight because we're fed up with charter flights being delayed.* —compare CHARTER FLIGHT

Sche·her·a·za·de /ʃəˌherəˈzɑːdə, -ˈzɑːd/ see SHEHERAZADE

sche·ma /ˈskiːmə/ *n* **-mata** /mətə/ *fml or tech* a representation of an arrangement or plan; DIAGRAM

sche·mat·ic /skiːˈmætɪk, skɪ-/ *adj* of or like a schema or SCHEME[1] (2): *A schematic drawing shows the main outlines but leaves out many details.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sche·ma·tize also **-tise** *BrE* /ˈskiːmətaɪz/ *v* [T] to express or show in a very simple, formal, (too) neat way

scheme[1] /skiːm/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* a formal, official, or business plan: *to propose a new health insurance scheme* **2** a system; an ordered arrangement: *It's hard to see any scheme in what this writer has written: it's very confused.* —see also COLOUR SCHEME **3** a clever dishonest plan: [+*to-v*] *a scheme to escape taxes* **4 the scheme of things** the way things are, regarded as an ordered system

scheme[2] *v* [I (**for, against**)] to make clever dishonest plans; PLOT[2] (1): *I've never trusted that scheming bastard.* [+*to-v*] *They've been scheming to get me dismissed from my job.* —**schemer** *n*

scher·zo /ˈskeətsəʊ‖ˈskeər-/ *n* **-zos** /səʊz/ a quick playful piece of music for instruments, usu. part of a longer piece

Schick·e·le /ˈʃɪkəli/, **Peter** (1935–) an American musician who treats CLASSICAL music in a joking way and who, under the name of P.D.Q. Bach, has written such works as *Concerto for Piano vs. Orchestra* and *Pervertimento for Bagpipes*

Schil·ler /ˈʃɪləʳ/, **Frie·drich von** /ˈfriːdrɪk, -ɪx vɒn‖-vɑːn/ (1759–1805) a German writer of plays and poetry, and PROFESSOR of history, best known for his *Ode to Joy*, set to music as part of Beethoven's Choral Symphony, No. 9

schis·m /ˈsɪzəm, ˈskɪzəm/ *n tech* [C;U (**in, between**)] (a) separation between parts originally of the same group, esp. in the Christian church

schis·mat·ic /sɪzˈmætɪk, skɪz-/ *n, adj tech, usu. derog* (a person) supporting schism

schist /ʃɪst/ *n* [U] a rock that naturally breaks apart into thin flat pieces

schiz·oid /ˈskɪtsɔɪd/ *adj tech* (typical) of or like schizophrenia or a SPLIT PERSONALITY

schiz·o·phre·ni·a /ˌskɪtsəʊˈfriːniə, -sə-/ *n* [U] *tech* a disorder of the mind marked by a separation of a person's mind and feelings, causing at last a drawing away from other people into a life in the imagination only —compare SPLIT PERSONALITY

schiz·o·phren·ic /ˌskɪtsəʊˈfrenɪk◂, -sə-/ *adj, n tech* (typical of) a person with schizophrenia —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

schlep , schlepp /ʃlep/ *v* **-pp-** *AmE infml* **1** [T] to carry or drag (esp. something heavy which makes one tired): *I schlepped all these books home with me.* **2** [I (AROUND)] to spend a lot of time and effort in getting from one place to another: *I've been schlepping around for an hour trying to get here.*

Schlitz /ʃlɪts/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a type of beer made by an American company

schlock /ʃlɒk‖ʃlɑːk/ *n, adj* [U] *AmE* (a thing, esp. a work of art) of low quality or value: *Most of the paintings in his show were just schlock.*

schmaltz , schmalz /ʃmɔːlts, ʃmælts‖ʃmɔːlts, ʃmɑːlts/ *n* [U] *infml derog* art or esp. music which brings out feelings in a too easy, not serious or delicate, way —~**y** *adj*

Schmidt /ʃmɪt/, **Hel·mut** /ˈhelmuːt/ (1918–) a West German politician, member of the Social Democratic party, and Chancellor from 1974 to 1983. He helped to introduce yearly talks on ECONOMICS with other European and world countries.

schmooze /ʃmuːz/ *v* [I] *AmE infml, usu. derog* to talk about unimportant things; make SMALL TALK: *A cocktail party full of people schmoozing.*

schmuck /ʃmʌk/ *n AmE infml* a fool

Schna·bel /ˈʃnɑːbəl/, **Ar·tur** /ˈɑːtʊəʳ‖ˈɑːr-/ (1882–1951) an American pianist known for his fine playing of Beethoven

schnapps /ʃnæps/ *n* [U] a strong alcoholic drink rather like GIN

schnit·zel /ˈʃnɪtsəl/ *n* [C;U] a small piece of VEAL covered with bits of bread for quick cooking in oil

schnook /ʃnʊk/ *n AmE infml* a stupid person: *Don't be such a schnook.*

schnoz·zle /ˈʃnɒzəl‖ˈʃnɑː-/ *n AmE humor* nose: *Jimmy "Schnozzle" Durante was an American Jewish comedian famous for his big nose.*

schol·ar /ˈskɒləʳ‖ˈskɑː-/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a person with great knowledge of, and skill in studying, a subject, esp. a non-science subject: *a Greek scholar* (=one with great knowledge of esp. ancient Greek) | *Islamic scholars* **2** [*usu. in negatives*] *infml* a clever and educated person: *I'm afraid I've never been much of a scholar.* **3** the holder of a SCHOLARSHIP (1) **4** *lit or BrE old use* a child in school —see STUDENT (USAGE)

schol·ar·ly /ˈskɒləli‖ˈskɑːlərli/ *adj* **1** concerned with serious detailed study: *a scholarly journal* **2** *usu. apprec* of or like a SCHOLAR (1)

schol·ar·ship /ˈskɒləʃɪp‖ˈskɑːlər-/ *n* **1** [C (**to**)] a sum of money or other prize given to a student by an official

body, esp. to pay (partly) for a course of study: *She won a scholarship to Oxford.* | *a state scholarship* (=given by a US state for study in one of its universities) **2** [U] the knowledge, work, or method of scholars; exact and serious study: *Her book is a fine piece of scholarship.*

scho·las·tic /skəˈlæstɪk/ *adj* [A] *fml* **1** of schools and/or teaching **2** of scholasticism

scho·las·ti·cis·m /skəˈlæstˌsɪzəm/ *n* [U] a method for the study of thought, esp. religious thought, based on ancient writings and practised in Europe from the 9th to the 17th centuries

school[1] /skuːl/ *n* **1** [C] a place of education for children: *Which school do your children go to?* | *a primary/secondary school* | *village schools* | *school uniform* | (fig.) *He had learned everything in the school of experience.* —see also APPROVED SCHOOL, CHURCH SCHOOL, COMPREHENSIVE[2], CONVENT SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, PREPARATORY SCHOOL, PRIMARY SCHOOL, PRIVATE SCHOOL, PUBLIC SCHOOL, SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS, SPECIAL SCHOOL, SUNDAY SCHOOL **2** [U] **a** attendance or study at a school: *He began school at the age of 5.* | *Is your child of school age?* (=old enough to go to school) | *Jimmy has always found school difficult.* **b** the day's work at a school: *School begins at 8.30.* | *I walk home after school.* **3** [C+*sing./pl. v*] the body of students (and teachers) at such a place: *The whole school was/were down at the sports field.* **4** [C;U] an establishment for teaching a particular subject, skill, etc.: *a driving school* | *She goes to (an) art school at night.* —see also FINISHING SCHOOL **5** [C;U] (in certain universities) a department concerned with a particular subject: *the School of Law* | *He went to medical school for three years.* **6** [C] a group of people with the same methods, opinions, style, etc.: *Rembrandt and his school* —see also SCHOOL OF THOUGHT **7** [C;U] *AmE* a university —see also OLD SCHOOL

school[2] *v* [T (**in**)] *fml* to teach, train, or bring under control: *a dog well schooled in obedience* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *He schooled himself to listen to others because he knew he talked too much.*

school[3] *n* [(**of**)] a large group of one kind of fish or certain other sea animals swimming together: *a school of whales*

school board /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* the group of people who govern a school or school district. They are usu. elected and some of them are the parents of children in the school(s) concerned.

School Cer·tif·i·cate /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *n* an examination in any of a range of subjects taken in British schools between 1917 and 1951. This was replaced by the O-level examination.

school·child /ˈskuːltʃaɪld/, **school·boy** /-bɔɪ/ *masc.*, **school·girl** /-gɜːl‖-gɜːrl/ *fem.*, **school·kid** /-kɪd/ *infml* — *n* **-children** /tʃɪldrən/ a child attending school, esp. regarded as one who is not yet grown up: *schoolboy humour* (=silly childish jokes)

schoolboy



school·day /ˈskuːldeɪ/ *n* a day of the week (in Britain and the US, usu. Monday to Friday) when children usu. attend school: *I'd forgotten today was Sunday—I thought it was a schoolday!*

school·days /ˈskuːldeɪz/ *n* [P] the time of one's life when one attended school

school din·ner /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **school lunch**— *n* the meal given to children at school in the middle of the day. People in Britain often make jokes about school dinners, esp. the PUDDINGS, which people remember as being heavy, filling, and sticky.

school dis·trict /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* an area within one state that includes a number of PRIMARY and SECONDARY schools which are governed together. In country areas a school district may include several towns; a large city may contain more than one school district. —compare LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

school·fel·low /ˈskuːlˌfeləʊ/ *n BrE* a SCHOOLMATE

school gov·ern·or /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n BrE* a member of the mainly non-teaching body at a school who take decisions on how it should be run, who should be employed, etc.

school·house /ˈskuːlhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzˌz/ a school building, esp. for a small village school

school·ing /ˈskuːlɪŋ/ *n* [U] education or attendance at school: *He had only five years of schooling.*

school-leav·er /ˈ· ˌ·· / *n BrE* a student who has just left or is about to leave school after completing a course of study: *jobs for school-leavers*

▷ USAGE In American English, to talk of leaving school suggests that one has left without finishing, or dropped out. The closest *AmE* terms to the *BrE* **school-leaver** are **highschool graduate** or **graduating senior.**◁

school·marm /ˈskuːlmɑːm‖-mɑːrm/ *n infml humor* **1** *derog* an old-fashioned, exact, and easily shocked woman who likes giving orders **2** *esp. AmE old-fash* a woman teacher at a school

school·mas·ter /ˈskuːlˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæ-/ **school·mis·tress** /-ˌmɪstrˌs/ *fem.*— *n esp. BrE* **1** a teacher at a PUBLIC SCHOOL **2** *old use* a schoolteacher

school·mate /ˈskuːlmeɪt/ also **schoolfellow**— *n* a child at the same school: *We were schoolmates twenty years ago.*

school of hard knocks /ˌ· · ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] *infml* life's experiences, esp. unlucky ones: *I was educated in the school of hard knocks.*

school of thought /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **schools of thought** a group of people with the same way of thinking, opinion, etc.: *There are different schools of thought on the best method of growing tomatoes.*

school·room /ˈskuːlruːm, -rʊm/ *n* **1** a room used for teaching in a school **2** a one-room school in a small village, now very rare

school run /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n BrE* the driving of children to and from school: *She finds she is kept very busy with school runs, after-school activities, etc.*

school·teach·er /ˈskuːlˌtiːtʃəʳ/ *n* a teacher at a school

school tie /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a tie worn as part of a school uniform by boys and girls in Britain

school·work /ˈskuːlwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] study for or during school classes

school year /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* the period of a year during which pupils stay in the same class at school, usu. beginning in the autumn and ending the following summer

schoo·ner /ˈskuːnəʳ/ *n* **1** a fast sailing ship with usu. two MASTS (=upright poles supporting the sails) and sails set along the length of the ship rather than across it **2** a large tall drinking glass, esp. (*BrE*) for SHERRY or (*AmE & AustrE*) for beer

Schu·bert /ˈʃuːbət‖-bərt/, **Franz** /frænts/ (1797–1828) an Austrian writer of music best known for his songs and symphonies (SYMPHONY)

Schu·mann /ˈʃuːmən‖-mɑːn/, **Rob·ert** /ˈrɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt/ (1810–56) a German writer of music best known for his piano works, who also wrote songs and ORCHESTRAL works

schwa /ʃwɑː/ *n tech* a vowel sounded typically in word parts spoken without STRESS (=special force) and shown in this dictionary as /ə/ or /ə/: *The "a" in "about" is a schwa.*

Schwar·zen·eg·ger /ˈʃwɔːtsənegəʳ‖ˈʃ ɔːr-/, **Arnold** (1947–) an American actor born in Austria, whose BODY BUILDING appearance won him the titles of Mr Germany and Mr Universe. He is best known for his part in the film *Terminator* in which he plays the HERO. —see colour picture on page 685

Schwarz·kopf /ˈʃvɑːtskɒpf‖ˈʃwɔːrtskɑːpf/, **Elisabeth** (1915–) a German singer who sang several different types of work but was esp. known for LIEDER

Schwarz·kopf /ˈʃwɔːtskɒpf‖ˈʃwɔːrtskɑːpf/, **Norman** (1934–) an American army general who was head of their successful forces during the GULF WAR with Iraq in 1990 to 1991. He was given the NICKNAME **Stormin' Norman**, perhaps from OPERATION DESERT STORM.

Schweit·zer /ˈʃwaɪtsəʳ/, **Albert** (1875–1965) a German medical doctor known for his MISSIONARY work in Africa. He was also a musician and thinker, and was given the Nobel Peace prize in 1952.

sci·at·ic /saɪˈætɪk/ *adj med* of the HIPS: *the* **sciatic nerve** (=along the back of the upper legs)

sci·at·i·ca /saɪˈætɪkə/ *n* [U] *not tech* pain in the area of the lower back, HIPS, and legs

sci·ence /ˈsaɪəns/ *n* **1** [U] (the study of) knowledge which can be made into a system and which usu. depends on seeing and testing facts and stating general natural laws: *Science has taught us how atoms are made up.* | *The computer is one of the marvels of modern science.* | *a science teacher* | *developments in science and technology* **2** [C;U] a branch of such knowledge, esp. **a** any of the branches usu. studied at universities, such as BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, ENGINEERING, and sometimes MATHEMATICS: *government support for the sciences* —compare ARTS; see also NATURAL SCIENCE **b** anything which may be studied exactly: *military science* | *Do you think cooking is an art or a science?* —see also SOCIAL SCIENCE, **blind with science** (BLIND²)

science fic·tion /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **sci-fi** /ˌsaɪ ˈfaɪ/ *infml*— *n* [U] stories about imaginary future developments in science and their effect on life, often concerned with space travel —compare FANTASY

Science Mu·se·um /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ [*the*] the building in W London where most important scientific items are put or kept on show

science park /ˈ·· ·/ *n* an area where there are a lot of companies that are concerned esp. with new TECHNOLOGY and scientific study

sci·en·tif·ic /ˌsaɪənˈtɪfɪk◂/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of or being science or its principles or rules: *scientific equipment* | *scientific research* | *scientific proof* **2** needing or showing exact knowledge, skill, or use of a system; SYSTEMATIC: *scientific baby care* | *We do keep accounts for the business, but we are not very scientific about it.* —opposite **unscientific** (for 2) — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

Scientific A·mer·i·can /ˌ··· ·ˈ···/ a monthly magazine with articles about new discoveries and developments in all the sciences, written for educated readers

scientific meth·od /ˌ···· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] a way of trying to prove the truth or falsity of an idea by setting up a test (EXPERIMENT) in which known things are controlled so that unknown things may be determined, and so that others doing the same test will get the same results

sci·en·tist /ˈsaɪəntɨst/ *n* a person who works in a science, esp. PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, or BIOLOGY

sci·en·tol·o·gy /ˌsaɪənˈtɒlədʒi‖-ˈtɑːl-/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) a religion started in the US by L Ron Hubbard, which says that Christ was only one of several important teachers. Its methods of raising money and treatment of people who have left the religion have been the subject of several legal cases.

Scil·ly Isles /ˈsɪli ˌaɪlz/ *n* [P] a group of about 140 islands off SW England, five of which are lived on; capital Hugh Town on the island of St Mary's. The Scilly Isles are popular with tourists.

scim·i·tar /ˈsɪmɨtəʳ/ *n* a sword with a curved blade that is sharp on the outer edge, formerly used in the Middle East —see picture at SWORD

scin·til·la /sɪnˈtɪlə/ *n* [S (**of**) *usu. in questions and negatives*] *fml* the slightest bit: *There's not a scintilla of truth in what he says.*

scin·til·late /ˈsɪntɨleɪt/ *v* [I (**with**)] **1** *usu. lit* to throw out quick flashes of light or SPARKS **2** *apprec* to be full of life and cleverness: *scintillating conversation* —**lation** /ˌsɪntɨˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

sci·on /ˈsaɪən/ *n* **1** a living part of a plant, usu. a young SHOOT, that is cut off, esp. for fixing onto another plant as a GRAFT **2** [(**of**)] *lit* a young or most recent member of a usu. noble or famous family

scis·sors /ˈsɪzəz‖-ərz/ *n* **1** [P] two sharp blades having handles at one end with holes for the fingers, fastened at the centre so that they open in the shape of the letter X and cut when they close: *I need scissors|some scissors|a pair of scissors for this job.* | *These scissors are very sharp.* —compare SHEARS; see PAIR (USAGE) **2** [S] a movement of the body in certain sports, esp. **a** (in wrestling (WRESTLE)) a hold in which a person locks their legs round their opponent **b** (in the HIGH JUMP) a way of jumping in which the person faces the bar as he or she goes over it

scissors-and-paste /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *adj* [A] *infml* (of printed matter) stuck together from cut-up pieces: (fig.) *There's nothing new in the book; it's just a scissors-and-paste job.* (=put together from other writings)

scle·ro·sis /sklɨˈrəʊsɨs/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ [C;U (**of**)] *med* (a) hardening of some usu. soft organ or part of the body — see also MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS —**-tic** /sklɨˈrɒtɪk‖-ˈrɑː-/ *adj*

scoff¹ /skɒf‖skɔːf, skɑːf/ *v* [I (**at**)] to speak or act disrespectfully; laugh (at): *A hundred years ago people scoffed at the idea that man would ever fly.* — **~er** *n* [*usu. pl.*]

scoff² *n* [*usu. pl.*] an expression of laughing disrespect: *He ignored the scoffs of the critics.*

scoff³ *v* [T (UP)] *infml, esp. BrE* to eat (esp. all of something) eagerly and fast: *Who's scoffed all the cake?*

scoff·law /ˈskɒflɔː‖ˈskɔːf-, ˈskɑːf-/ *n AmE* someone who disregards (usu. less important) laws: *parking scofflaw*

scold¹ /skəʊld/ *v* [T] *old-fash* to speak angrily and complainingly to (someone who has done something wrong): *He was severely scolded by his mother.* — **~ing** *n* [C;U] : *I'm in for* (=going to get) *a scolding when I get home.*

scold² *n* [*usu. sing.*] *old use* a woman who is always complaining or quarrelling

scol·lop /ˈskɒləp‖ˈskɑː-/ *n, v* SCALLOP

sconce /skɒns‖skɑːns/ *n* a usu. decorative holder which may be fixed to a wall, for one or more candles or electric lights; used esp. in a church

scone /skɒn, skəʊn‖skəʊn, skɑːn/ ‖ also **biscuit** *AmE*— *n* a soft usu. round breadlike cake of a size for one person, sometimes containing dried fruit

Scone, stone of see STONE OF SCONE

scoop¹ /skuːp/ *n* **1** any of various containers or tools for holding and moving liquids or loose materials, such as **a** a small deep SHOVEL-shaped tool held in the hand for digging out corn, flour, etc.: *a kitchen scoop* | *a measuring scoop* **b** a deep round spoon for digging out soft food: *an ice-cream scoop* **c** the bucket on an earth-moving machine **2** [(**of**)] also **scoop·ful** /-fʊl/— the amount held by any of these: *Two scoops of ice cream, please.* **3** a usu. exciting news report printed, broadcast, etc., before one's competitors can do so —compare EXCLUSIVE² **4 What's the scoop?** *esp. AmE infml* (asked of someone expected to provide needed information)

scoop² *v* [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to take up or out (as if) with a SCOOP¹: *She scooped some ice cream out of the tub.* | *He scooped his books up off the floor.* **2** (of a newspaper) to make an important news report before (another newspaper): *The "News" scooped the other newspapers by revealing the prince's marriage plans.* **3** *infml* to get ahead of or defeat, esp. by being faster: *We scooped the other companies by making the best offer for the contract.*

scoot /skuːt/ *v* [I] *infml* to go quickly and suddenly: *There's the bus; you'll have to scoot if you want to catch it!*

scoot·er /ˈskuːtəʳ/ *n* **1** a child's vehicle with two small wheels, an upright handle fixed to the front wheel, and a narrow board for one foot, pushed by the other foot touching the ground **2** a MOTOR SCOOTER —see BICYCLE (USAGE), DRIVE (USAGE), TRANSPORT (USAGE)

scope¹ /skəʊp/ *n* [U] **1** [(**of**)] the area within the limits of a question, subject, action, etc.; RANGE: *The politics of a country would be outside the scope of a book for tourists.* | *to broaden|widen the scope of the report* | *very narrow in scope* **2** [(**for**)] space or chance for action or thought; OPPORTUNITY: *There's considerable|not much scope for initiative in this job.*

scope²

scope *sbdy.|sthg.* **out** *phr v AmE infml* find and examine: *It's getting late, should we scope out a restaurant?*

Scopes tri·al /ˈskəʊps ˌtraɪəl/ also **Monkey trial**— [*the*] the 1925 American court case of biology teacher **John Scopes** who was prosecuted (PROSECUTE) for teaching Darwin's THEORY of EVOLUTION in a State which was against this because it preferred to teach the story of the Creation given in the Bible. It raised questions about the separation of religion and government (or church and state). —see also Clarence DARROW

scorch¹ /skɔːtʃ‖skɔːrtʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to burn slightly so as to change or be changed in colour, taste, etc.: *The iron was too hot and he scorched his shirt .* | *The meat was black and scorched on the outside but still raw inside.* | *Heat it gently so that it doesn't scorch.* **2** [T] to dry up and take the life out of (plants) with a strong dry heat: *The fields had been scorched by the hot summer sun.* | *scorching heat* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*] *BrE infml* to travel very fast: *The car scorched down the road at 90 miles an hour.*

scorch² *n* **1** [C] a scorched place; mark made by burning

on a surface **2** [U] the appearance of scorching produced by some plant diseases

scorched earth pol·i·cy /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* the destruction by an army of all useful things, esp. crops, in an area before leaving it to an advancing enemy

scorch·er /ˈskɔːtʃəʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n infml* **1** a very hot day **2** something very exciting, angry, fast, powerful, etc.

score[1] /skɔːʳ/ *n* **1** [C] the number of points, runs, marks, GOALS (2), etc., made in a game, competition, sport, etc.: *The score stood at|was one-nil* (=1-0) *with a minute left in the game.* | *Is anybody* **keeping (the) score** (=recording it) *in this game?* | *a record score* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of gaining points, etc., in a game, etc.: *What a brilliant score!* **3** [C] **a** a written copy of a piece of music, esp. for a large group of performers: *a full score* (=showing all the parts in separate lines on the page) | *a vocal score* (=showing only the singers' parts) **b** the music for a film or play: *Who wrote the film score?* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] a reason: *We have enough money; don't worry* **on that score.** **5** [C] an old disagreement or hurt kept in mind; GRUDGE[2]: *I've got* **a score to settle** *with him.* (=I want to make sure he is punished.) **6** [*the*+S] *infml* the true, often unfavourable, facts of a situation: *What's the score?* | *John will explain what's happened – he knows the score.* **7** [C] also **score mark** /ˈ· ·/– a line made or cut on a surface with a sharp instrument: *deep scores on the floor* –see also SCORES

score[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to gain (one or more points, GOALS (2), etc.) in a sport, game, competition, etc.: *Arsenal scored in the final minute of the game.* | *All the contestants scored well|highly in the quiz.* | *Which batsman has scored most runs this season?* **2** [T] to give (a certain number of points) to (someone) in a sport, game, or competition: [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *The Canadian judge scored her 15.* | *In darts, a bullseye scores (you) 50 points.* **3** [I] to record the score of a sports match as it is played: *Will you score for us?* **4** [I;T] to gain or win (a success, victory, prize, etc.): *Archer has scored again with another popular book.* | *The bomb scored a hit on the bridge.* **5** [T **(for)**] to write or arrange (music), esp. for a particular combination of instruments: *This piece is scored for strings and percussion.* **6** [I+*prep*; T+*obj*+*prep*] to make (a clever and successful point), esp. in an argument against someone: *I hate conversations where people try to* **score (points) off** *each other.* **7** [T] to mark or cut one or more lines on (as if) with a sharp instrument: *Score the paper to make it easy to fold.* **8** [I **(with)**] *sl* to gain a sexual success: *Did you score (with her) last night?* **9** [I;T] *sl* to obtain a supply of (a usu. illegal drug)

score sthg. ↔ **out|through** *phr v* [T] *fml* to draw a line through (one or more written words) to show that they should not be read; CROSS **out**

score[3] *determiner, n* **score** *or* **scores** *esp. old use or bibl* (*often in comb.*) (a group of) 20: *According to the Bible, we can expect to live for three score|threescore years and ten.* (=70 years) –see also SCORES

score·board /ˈskɔːbɔːd‖ˈskɔːrbɔːrd/ *n* a large board on which the score of a game is recorded as it is played

score·card /ˈskɔːkɑːd‖ˈskɔːrkɑːrd/ *n* a printed card used by someone watching a sports match, race, etc., to record what happens in it

scor·er /ˈskɔːrəʳ/ also **score·keep·er** /ˈskɔːˌkiːpəʳ ‖ ˈskɔːr-/ *n* **1** a person who keeps the official record of a sports match and its score as it is played **2** a player who scores points, GOALS, etc.

scores /skɔːz‖skɔːrz/ *n* [P **(of)**] a lot: *There were scores of people there, maybe eighty or more.*

scorn[1] /skɔːn‖skɔːrn/ *n* [U **(for)**] strong and sometimes angry disrespect towards a person or thing that is regarded as worthless; CONTEMPT: *He* **poured scorn on** *my suggestion.* (=expressed scorn for it) – ~**ful** *adj* : *a scornful laugh* | *his scornful dismissal of the democratic process* – ~**fully** *adv*

scorn[2] *v* [T] *usu. lit* to refuse to accept or consider, esp. because of scorn or pride: *She scorned all our offers of help.* [+*to-v*] *He scorned to hide away like a coward.*

Scor·pi·o /ˈskɔːpiəʊ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the eighth sign of the ZODIAC, represented by a scorpion **2** [C] a person born between October 23 and November 21 –see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC

scor·pi·on /ˈskɔːpiən‖-ɔːr-/ *n* a tropical insect-like creature with a long body and a curving tail which stings poisonously

Scor·se·se /skɔːˈseɪzi‖skɔːr-/, **Martin** (1942–) an American film director whose works include *Taxi Driver* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*

Scot /skɒt‖skɑːt/ also **Scotsman, Scots·wom·an** /ˈskɑtswʊmən ‖ ˈskɑː-/ *fem.– n* a person who comes from or whose parents come from Scotland

scotch /skɒtʃ‖skɑːtʃ/ *v* [T] *fml* to take strong action to stop; put an end to: *You can scotch the rumour by explaining the true facts immediately.* | *We soon scotched that idea.*

Scotch[1] also **Scotch whis·ky** *fml– n* [C;U] (a glass of) a strong alcoholic drink (WHISKY) made in Scotland: *"Scotch on the rocks,* (=with ice) *please."*

Scotch[2] *adj* SCOTTISH –see USAGE there

Scotch broth /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] thick soup made from vegetables, meat, and BARLEY

Scotch egg /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a boiled egg cooked inside a covering of SAUSAGE meat

Scotch mist /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] a thick mist mixed with light rain

Scotch tape /ˌ· ˈ·, ˈ· ·/ *n, v AmE tdmk for* SELLOTAPE

Scotch whis·ky /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] SCOTCH

scot-free /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* [F] *infml* without harm, or esp. punishment that one deserves: *The murderer* **got off scot-free.**

Scot·land /ˈskɒtlənd‖ˈskɑːt-/ a country in the United Kingdom north of England; capital Edinburgh. Scotland has many LOCHS (=lakes) and islands, and in parts it is very mountainous. The Gaelic language is still spoken in some parts of the west Highlands and Outer Hebrides. Most political decisions about Scotland are made in London which some groups, like the Scottish National Party (SNP) think is wrong and are trying to change. The national SYMBOL of Scotland is the THISTLE and its PATRON SAINT is Saint Andrew. –see also DEVOLUTION, SAINT ANDREW'S CROSS and see colour map on page 816

Scot·land Yard /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **New Scotland Yard**– (the main office of) the division of the London police dealing with serious crimes –see also CID

Scots /skɒts‖skɑːts/ *adj* SCOTTISH –see USAGE there

Scots Greys /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a Scottish REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army

Scots Guards /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a Scottish REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army

Scots law /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] see SCOTTISH LEGAL SYSTEM

Scots·man /ˈskɒtsmən ‖ ˈskɑːts-/ [*the*] one of the main Scottish newspapers, read esp. in the east around Edinburgh –see also extra information on page 893

Scott, Dred see DRED SCOTT CASE

Scott, George C (1926–) an American actor best known for his film parts, esp. strong-willed characters such as soldiers. He was the first actor to refuse an OSCAR.

Scott, Sir Peter (1909–89) a British ORNITHOLOGIST (=person who studies birds) and artist and writer of many books on birds. He also supported or led various bodies who work for the protection of nature.

Scott, Robert Falcon (1868–1912) an officer in the British navy who led two journeys to the Antarctic, and died while returning from the South Pole during the second one; he is often called **Scott of the Antarctic**

Scott, Ron·nie /ˈrɒni ‖ ˈrɑː-/ (1927–) a British SAXOPHONE player who runs Britain's best known JAZZ club, "Ronnie Scott's" in London, attracting musicians of international standard

Scott, Sir Wal·ter /ˈwɔːltəʳ/ (1771–1832) a Scottish writer and poet, esp. famous for his stories of Scottish life, including several based on historical characters, e.g. *The Heart of Midlothian* and *Ivanhoe*

Scot·tish /ˈskɒtɪʃ‖ˈskɑːtɪʃ/ also **Scots, Scotch**– *adj* of Scotland

▷ USAGE **Scottish** and **Scots** are the usual forms of the adjective. **Scots** is usually used only of people: *a* **Scottish** *plant* | *a* **Scots/Scottish** *lawyer.* **Scotch** is often considered derogatory, ignorant, or old-fashioned except when used of the products of Scotland: **Scotch** *whisky* | **Scotch** *beef.*◁

Scottish Bal·let /ˌ·· ˈ··‖ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ the main BALLET company in Scotland

Scottish Ed·u·ca·tion De·part·ment /ˌ·· ··ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ [*the*] see SED

Scottish E·pis·co·pal Church /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] the ANGLICAN church in Scotland

Scottish High·lands /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the* +P] the mountainous area in the northern half of Scotland —see colour map on page 818

Scottish Le·gal System /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] also **Scots Law**— the system of law in Scotland based on CIVIL LAW (2). This is different to the English system although the final court of APPEAL for Scotland as well as England is the House of Lords. Acts of Parliament do not necessarily operate in Scotland because the law is different.

Scottish Na·tion·al Par·ty /ˌ·· ˈ··· ˌ··/ see SNP

Scottish Of·fice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] a British government office responsible for carrying out the government's policies (POLICY) in Scotland

Scottish Op·e·ra /ˌ·· ˈ···/ the main OPERA company of Scotland

Scot·ty /ˈskɒti‖ˈskɑː-/ also **Mr Scott**— a character in the television programme *Star Trek*, known esp. for the phrase said to him "Beam me up, Scotty" —see also **Beam me up, Scotty** (BEAM)

scoun·drel /ˈskaʊndrəl/ *n esp. fml or old-fash* a wicked, selfish, or dishonest man: *an utter scoundrel*

scour[1] /skaʊəʳ/ *v* [T (**for**)] to go through every part of (an area) thoroughly in search of someone or something: *The police are scouring the countryside for the escaped prisoners.*

scour[2] *v* [T] **1** to clean or remove by hard rubbing with a rough material: *to scour dirty pots and pans* **2** [(OUT)] (of a stream of water) to form by wearing or washing away: *Water had scoured out a passage in the soft rock.*

scour[3] *n* [S] an act of scouring

scour·er /ˈskaʊərəʳ/ *n* a tool, esp. a small ball of plastic wire or net, for cleaning cooking pots and pans

scourge[1] /skɜːdʒ‖skɜːrdʒ/ *n* **1** a cause of great harm or suffering: *the scourge of war* (=war causes great suffering) **2** a whip used formerly for punishment: (fig.) *Jack Evans, the self-appointed scourge of the political left*

scourge[2] *v* [T] **1** to beat with a whip **2** to cause great harm or suffering to; AFFLICT: *a country scourged by disease and war*

scouse /skaʊs/ *n BrE infml, sometimes derog* **1** [C] also **scous·er** /ˈskaʊsəʳ/— someone who comes from the area round Liverpool in northwest England **2** [U] the way of speaking of someone from this area **3** [U] a type of STEW[2] (1) —**scouse** *adj*

scout[1] /skaʊt/ *n* **1** [C] (*often cap.*) **a** also **boy scout**— a member of an association (the **Scouts** or the **Boy Scouts of America**) for training boys in various useful skills such as lighting a fire, and for developing their character. Scouts traditionally carry a PENKNIFE and their MOTTO is "Be Prepared." **b** also **girl scout**— *AmE for* GUIDE[1] —see also SCOUT'S HONOUR (5) **2** [C] a soldier sent out to search the land ahead of an army, esp. for information about the enemy **3** [S (AROUND, ROUND)] *infml* an act of scouting: *Take a scout round to see what you can find.* **4** [C] also **talent scout**— a person who is employed to find and hire young people of special ability, esp. for a sports team or for a place of entertainment

scout[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to go looking for something: *We scouted around for a shop that was open late.* **2** [T (OUT, **for**)] to go through or look carefully at (a place) to get information about it: *The commander sent a party to scout (out) the area for water.*

scout·ing /ˈskaʊtɪŋ/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) the activities of SCOUTS[1] (1)

scout·mas·ter /ˈskaʊtˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæ-/ *n* an adult leader of a group of SCOUTS[1] (1)

Scout's hon·our /ˌ· ˈ··/ *phrase often humor* (said when one is trying to persuade another of one's honesty, esp. when the other may think one is lying): *Scout's honour! There were five cookies left when I went to bed.*

scowl[1] /skaʊl/ *n* a threatening expression of the face showing anger or strong disapproval; angry FROWN

scowl[2] *v* [I (**at**)] to make a scowl; FROWN angrily: *He scowled heavily.*

scrab·ble /ˈskræbəl/ *v* [I (ABOUT)] *infml* to move (one's fingers) wildly and quickly (as if) looking for something: *She scrabbled about on the floor picking up the coins she'd dropped.*

Scrabble *tdmk* a board game in which players try to make words out of the letters they have drawn from a pile

scrag[1] /skræg/ *v* **-gg-** [T] *infml* to attack roughly and angrily

scrag[2] also **scrag end** /ˌ· ˈ·/— *n* [U] *BrE* the bony part of a sheep's neck, used usu. for boiling to make STEW or soup; one of the cheaper types of meat

scrag·gly /ˈskrægəli/ *adj AmE infml* (esp. of things that grow) poor and uneven-looking; badly grown

scrag·gy /ˈskrægi/ *adj infml derog, often humor* thin and bony: *You don't expect that scraggy old horse to win, do you?*

scram /skræm/ *v* **-mm-** [I *often imperative*] *infml* to get away fast; run away: *You're not wanted here, so scram! | Let's scram!*

scram·ble[1] /ˈskræmbəl/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to move or climb quickly, esp. over a rough or steep surface: *I scrambled up the cliff/over the rocks for a better look at the sea.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **for**] to struggle or compete with others eagerly or against difficulty: *People were scrambling madly for shelter/scrambling to get out of the way.* **3** [T] to change the order of the signals in (a radio or telephone message) with a machine (a **scrambler**) so that it cannot be understood without being received on a special instrument **4** [T (UP)] to mix (esp. words or things on a flat surface) together without order; JUMBLE **5** [I] (of a military aircraft) to take off quickly, e.g. because of a sudden enemy attack

scramble[2] *n* **1** [S] an act of moving or climbing, esp. over a rough surface: *It's quite a scramble to get to the top of the hill!* **2** [S (**for**)] an eager and disorderly struggle: *a mad scramble for the best seats/jobs* **3** [C] a motorcycle race over very rough ground

scrambled egg /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **scrambled eggs**— *n* [U] eggs prepared by mixing the white and the yellow parts together before cooking

scrap[1] /skræp/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a small piece; bit: *a scrap of paper | scraps of news |* (fig.) *There's not a scrap of truth in what he says.* —see picture at PIECE **2** [U] material which cannot be used for its original purpose but which may have some value: *He sold his car for scrap/for its scrap value.* (=as metal to be used again) | *a scrap-metal dealer* —see also SCRAPS, SCRAP PAPER, SCRAPPY[1]

scrap[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to get rid of as no longer useful or wanted: *The government has scrapped its plans for earnings-related pensions.* **2** to make into SCRAP[1] (2): *The navy's biggest aircraft carrier is being scrapped.*

scrap[3] *n infml* a usu. sudden, short, noisy but not serious fight or quarrel between a few people: *The boys are always getting into scraps.* —see also SCRAPPY[2]

scrap[4] *v* **-pp-** [I] *infml* to fight or quarrel: *dogs scrapping over a bone*

scrap·book /ˈskræpbʊk/ *n* a book of empty pages in which a collection of photographs, newspaper articles, etc., is fastened. They are often made up by children or people with a special interest and may follow a particular subject e.g. one's favourite singer/sport etc. or simply be a collection of things one has seen or read and liked.

scrape[1] /skreɪp/ *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to remove (unwanted material) from a surface by pulling or pushing an edge firmly across it repeatedly: *I scraped the mud from my boots. | I scraped the skin off the potatoes.* **2** [T (DOWN)] to clean or make (a surface) smooth in this way: *She scraped the door (down) before painting it again. | He scraped his boots clean before coming into the house.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*;T (**on, against**)] to (cause to) rub roughly against a surface: *The old car drove off, with its exhaust pipe scraping along the ground. | He scraped his chair against the wall. | She scraped her fingernail down the wallpaper to see if it would tear.* **4** [T] to hurt or damage in this way: *He scraped his knee when he fell/scraped his car when he drove through the narrow gate.* **5** [T (OUT)] to make (a hole or hollow place) by scraping **6** [I+*adv/prep*] **a** to live, keep a business, etc., with no more than the necessary money: *We don't earn much, but we manage to scrape by/along somehow.* **b** to succeed by doing work of the lowest acceptable quality: *She just scraped through the exam.* (=passed it by one or two marks) **7 scrape a living** to get just enough food or

money to stay alive **8 scrape the (bottom of the) barrel** *infml* to take, use, suggest, etc., something of the lowest quality: *Is he the best speaker they could get for the meeting? They're really scraping the bottom of the barrel!* —see also **bow and scrape** (BOW¹)

scrape sthg. ↔ **up/together** also **scratch up/together** *AmE phr v* [T] to gather (a total, esp. of money) with difficulty by putting small amounts together: *We scraped up enough to pay the deposit.*

scrape² *n* **1** an act or sound of scraping **2** a mark or wound made by scraping: *They just suffered a few cuts and scrapes, nothing serious.* **3** *infml* an unpleasant, but not very serious, situation or difficulty: *She gets into these silly scrapes because she doesn't think before she acts.*

scrap·er /ˈskreɪpəʳ/ *n* a tool for scraping: *a paint scraper*

scrap heap /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [C] a pile of waste material, esp. metal **2** [*the*] *infml* a place for unwanted things, people, or ideas: *Suddenly I lost my job; it was a great shock to be* **on the scrapheap** *at 50.* | *We can now put this whole affair on the* **scrapheap of history.** (=we can forget about it)

scra·pie /ˈskreɪpi/ *n* [U] a disease of sheep and goats, caused by a VIRUS, that usu. kills them

scrap·ings /ˈskreɪpɪŋz/ *n* [P] things (to be) scraped from a surface: *scrapings taken from the paint for chemical tests*

scrap pa·per /ˈ· ˌ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **scratch paper** *AmE*— *n* [U] paper, esp. in single sheets already used on one side, which may be used instead of more expensive paper for unimportant notes, shopping lists, etc.

scrap·ple /ˈskræpəl/ *n* [U] *AmE* a dish made from meat and CORNMEAL

scrap·py¹ /ˈskræpi/ *adj derog* made of disconnected pieces; not well arranged or planned: *a scrappy, badly-written report*

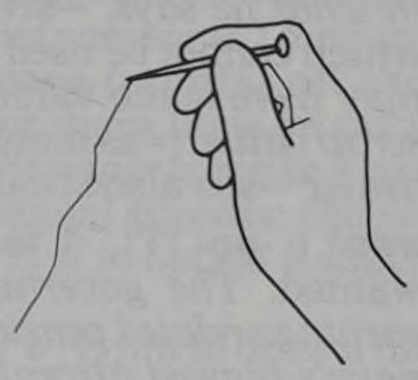
scrappy² *adj AmE infml* **1** liking to fight **2** determined; GUTSY

scraps /skræps/ *n* [P] pieces of food not eaten at a meal, and thrown away: *We feed the kitchen scraps to the pigs.* — compare LEFTOVERS

scratch¹ /skrætʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make a mark on (a surface) or a small wound in (a person's skin) by rubbing with something pointed or rough: *Be careful the cat doesn't scratch you!* | *The dog's scratching at the door to be* (=because it wants to be) *let in.* | *I scratched the side of the car as I was driving through the gate.* | *I scratched my hand on a rose thorn.* | *The record is very badly scratched.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to put or remove by doing this: *He scratched his name on the wall with a knife.* | *The dog has scratched some of the paint off the door.* **3** [I;T] to rub (a part of the body) lightly and repeatedly, esp. to stop an ITCH² (1): *Don't keep scratching your nose/those insect bites.* **4** [I;T] **a** to remove (oneself, a horse, etc.) from a race or competition before it starts: *The horse was scratched on the day before the race.* **b** to remove from consideration; ABANDON: *I guess we can scratch that idea.* | *They scratched their plans for the weekend.* **5 scratch the surface** [*usu. in negatives*] to deal with only the beginning of a matter or only a few of many cases: *This report is very superficial; it doesn't even scratch the surface of the problem.*

scratch sthg. **up/together** *phr v AmE* **scrape together** (SCRAPE¹)

scratch



scratch² *n* **1** [C] a mark or small wound made by scratching: *There were some nasty scratches on the beautiful mahogany table.* | *I don't need a bandage; it's only a scratch.* | *She came out of the accident* **without a scratch.** (=unhurt) **2** [C] a sound made (as if) by scratching: *You couldn't hear the music because of all the hisses and scratches on the record.* **3** [S] an act of scratching a part of the body: *The dog was* **having a scratch.** (=scratching itself) **4** [U] a type of music produced by stopping a record while it is playing and moving it by hand to make a scratching sound **5** [C] (of a player in GOLF) having a HANDICAP¹ (2) of zero **6 from scratch** *infml* starting from the beginning or with nothing: *It's completely ruined, so we'll have to do it all again/start from scratch.* | *Did you make that cake from scratch or did you use a cake mix?* **7 up to scratch** *infml* in(to) good condition or at/to an acceptable standard: *The pianist was not feeling well and her performance wasn't up to scratch.* —see also SCRATCHY

scratch³ *adj* [A *no comp.*] made or put together in a hurry using whatever could be found: *Many of our best players were injured, so we could only put out a scratch side.*

scratch·ings /ˈskrætʃɪŋz/ *n* [P] *BrE* small pieces of cooked PORK skin usu. eaten cold; often sold in bags in PUBS — compare CRACKLING

scratch·pad /ˈskrætʃpæd/ *n esp. AmE* a small pile of loosely-joined sheets of paper for writing informal notes

scratch pa·per /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *AmE for* SCRAP PAPER

scratch test /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a test made by scratching (SCRATCH¹ (1)) the skin with a substance then waiting for a reaction in order to see if one has an ALLERGY to the substance

scratch·y /ˈskrætʃi/ *adj* **1** (of a recording or its sound) spoiled by scratches **2** (of clothes) hot, rough, and uncomfortable: *a scratchy woollen shirt* **3** made as if by scratching paper with a pen: *What's her name? I can't read this scratchy signature.* —**-iness** *n* [U]

scrawl¹ /skrɔːl/ *v* [T] to write in a careless, hurried, awkward, or unskilful way; SCRIBBLE: *to scrawl a few hurried lines*

scrawl² *n infml* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] something written awkwardly, or fast and carelessly: *She just sent us a scrawl on a card to say she was having a good time.* **2** [S] an awkward or irregular way of writing: *This letter must be from Frank; I recognize his scrawl.*

scraw·ny /ˈskrɔːni/ *adj infml derog* (of a person, animal, or part of the body) without much flesh on the bones; thin: *his scrawny neck*

scream¹ /skriːm/ *v* [I;T (OUT)] to cry out loudly on a high note, esp. in fear, pain, great excitement, or anger, or sometimes laughter: *I screamed for help.* | *She was screaming hysterically.* | *We screamed with laughter at her joke.* | *He screamed out a warning not to touch the electric wire.* | *The crowd screamed its approval.* | *a screaming baby* | (fig.) *The wind screamed down the chimney.* [+*to-v*] (fig.) *These injustices simply scream to be remedied.* (=it is extremely clear that they must be)

scream² *n* **1** [C] a sudden loud cry expressing anger, pain, fear, or sometimes laughter: *Her loud screams could be heard all over the house.* | *a scream of anguish* | (fig.) *The scream of the jets overhead drowned our conversation.* **2** [S] *infml* an extremely funny person, thing, joke, etc.: *She thought it was an absolute scream when I fell off my chair.*

scream·ing /ˈskriːmɪŋ/ *adj* **1** attracting a lot of attention: *a screaming tabloid exposé* **2** very funny: *a screaming new comedy* ~**ly** *adv*

scree /skriː/ *n* [U] a mass of small loose broken rocks on the side of a mountain —see picture at MOUNTAIN

screech¹ /skriːtʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T (OUT)] to make an unpleasant high sharp sound, esp. because of terror or pain; SHRIEK: *A man was peering in at her. She screeched in fright and drew the curtains.* | *"Leave me alone!" she screeched.* **2** [I] (of a machine, esp. of a TYRE or BRAKES) to make a noise like this: *The lorry came to a screeching halt.* (=stopped suddenly) | (fig.) *The project screeched to a halt/standstill when the government withdrew all funding.*

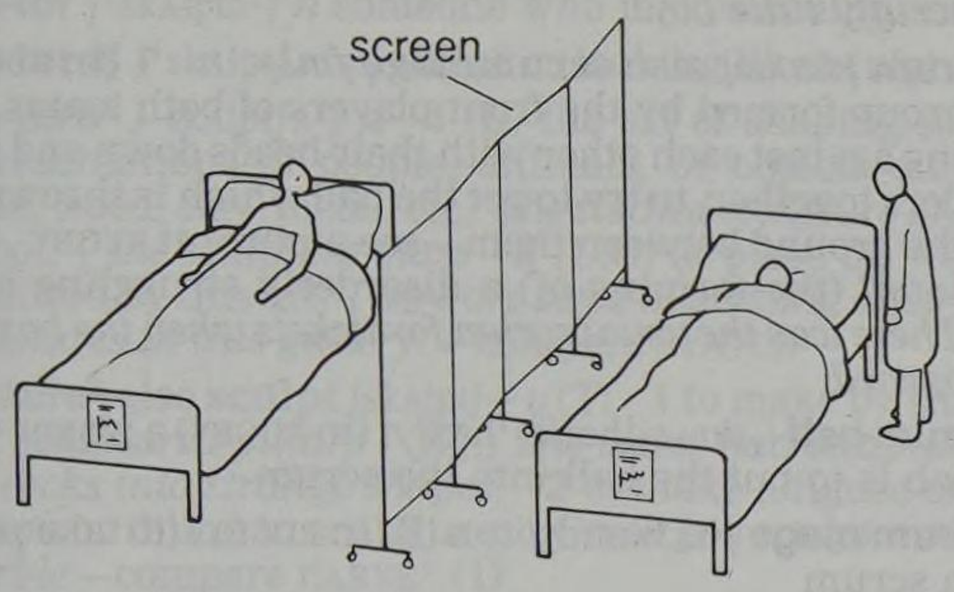
screech² *n* a screeching sound: *a screech of brakes*

screed /skriːd/ also **screeds** *pl.*— *n BrE infml derog* a long and usu. dull speech or piece of writing: *He'd written screeds and screeds, but none of it was of any interest.*

screen¹ /skriːn/ *n* **1** an upright frame, sometimes made of folding parts, which is used as a small usu. movable wall for dividing a room or for protecting people from view, from cold air, from fires, etc.: *They put a screen round his bed so the doctor could examine him.* | *Always put a screen in front of the fire if children are playing nearby.* **2** [(**for**)] something that protects, shelters, or hides: *We planted a screen of trees to keep out the wind.* | *His used-car firm was just a screen for illicit drug trading.* **3** a surface on which a cinema film is shown: *We sat at the front, very close to the screen.* | *She first appeared* **on the screen** (=acted in her first film) *ten years ago.* | *The play was adapted for the screen* (=rewritten to be made into a film) *by its original author.* —see also SMALL SCREEN **4** the front glass surface of an electrical instrument, esp. a television, on which pictures or information

appear: *Using a VDU, you can change the text* **on screen.**| *This popular show will be back on your screens* (=broadcast on television) *again next year.* —see picture at COMPUTER **5** a frame holding a net or a surface with holes in it, used for separating large things, which do not pass through the holes, from small things, which do: *We'd better get the screens up on the windows; bugs are starting to get in.*

screen



screen[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**from**)] to shelter or protect from light, wind, etc.: *He screened his eyes with his hand.* **2** [(OFF, **from**)] to hide from view (as if) with a screen: *A floppy hat screened her face.* | *Part of the room was screened off as a reception area.* **3** [(**from**)] to protect from harm or punishment: *He admitted the crime in order to screen his wife, who was the real criminal.* **4** [(OUT) *often pass.*] to test in order to find out ability, health, suitability, loyalty, etc., and so be able to remove those that do not reach the proper standard: *A hundred carefully screened people were invited to dinner with the President.* | *Unsuitable candidates were screened out.* (=were got rid of after being tested) **5** [*usu. pass.*] to show or broadcast (a film or television show): *The big match is being screened live.*

screen sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to prevent from coming through by a covering or SCREEN[1] (1,2): *The curtains screen out the sunlight.*

Screen Ac·tors' Guild /ˈ·· ˌ·/ see SAG

screen door /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a door outside the main door at the front or back of a house that lets air in but keeps insects out. They are common all over the US but rare in Britain.

screen·ing /ˈskriːnɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) showing of a film: *The new film gets its first London screening next week.* **2** [U] the process of screening (SCREEN[2] (4)) people or things: *more efficient breast cancer screening*

screen·play /ˈskriːnpleɪ/ *n* a story written for a film or television

screen print·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] SILK SCREEN

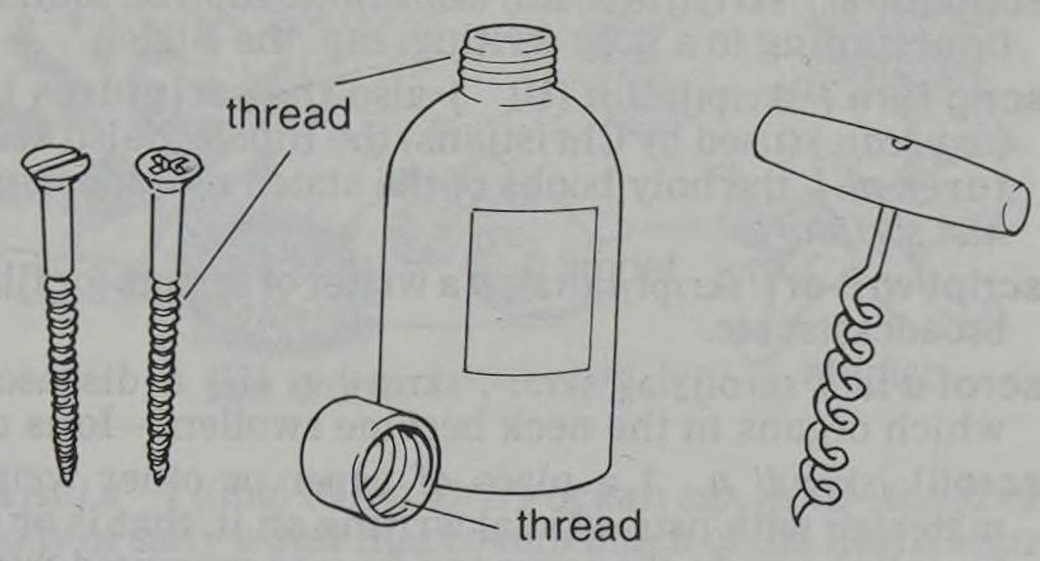
screen test /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a test of someone's ability to act in films

screen·writ·er /ˈskriːnraɪtəʳ/ *n* a person who writes the words for actors in films, often using the words in a book which is being made into a film as his or her starting point

screw[1] /skruː/ *n* **1** [C] a type of fastener that is like a nail but has a raised edge winding round it (THREAD[1] (4)) and a special cut in its top to hold a tool, usu. a SCREWDRIVER, for turning and pressing it into the material to be fastened —see also CORKSCREW **2** [C] *tech* a PROPELLER, esp. on a ship **3** [C (**of**)] *BrE old-fash* a small twisted paper packet: *a screw of tobacco* **4** [C] *sl* (used by prisoners) a prison guard **5** [C] *taboo sl* **a** an act of having sex **b** someone considered as a person to have sex with: *a good screw* **6** [S] *BrE sl* pay; wages **7 have a 'screw loose** *humor* to be slightly mad **8 put/tighten the screws on** *infml* to force (someone) to do as one wishes, esp. by increasing pressure and threats

screw[2] *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to fasten with one or more screws: *The table legs are screwed to the floor.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **a** to turn or tighten (a screw or something that moves in the same way): *Screw the two pipes together end to end.* | *Screw the lid on tightly.* **b** (of such a thing) to turn or tighten: *The two pieces screw together.* —see also UNSCREW **3** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to twist (paper or cloth) carelessly or so as to make a ball: *She screwed the letter up angrily*/*screwed the letter into a ball and threw it away.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **out of**] *infml* to get by forcing or twisting or by great effort or threats: *We eventually managed to screw a promise out of them.* **5** [I;T] *taboo sl* to have sex (with) **6** [T(for); I(out of)] to treat badly, esp. by taking an unfair advantage of: *I really got screwed on this new sander.* | *They screwed us for $5 on the price of the room.* | *You'll get screwed out of your last dollar in that place.* **7** [T *usu. imperative*] *taboo sl* (used for showing extreme annoyance with the stated person or thing): *"No, I won't lend you the money." "Well,* **screw you!**" —see also **have one's head screwed on** (HEAD)

screws



screws screw top corkscrew

screw sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to twist (one's face) or make (one's eyes) narrower, esp. during effort or to show disapproval or uncertainty: *She screwed up her eyes in the bright light.* **2** *infml* to ruin; cause to fail: *It was such a simple plan; how could you have screwed it up?* **3** [(**about**) *usu. pass.*] *infml* to cause to become confused, anxious, unhappy, etc.: *He's divorced, and he's really screwed up about his relationships with women.* **4 screw up one's courage** to stop oneself from being afraid

screw·ball /ˈskruːbɔːl/ *n* **1** *infml, esp. AmE* a person whose ideas or actions seem wild or mad, usu. in a harmless way **2** *AmE infml* (*in* BASEBALL) a ball which is thrown to a BATTER[3] and spins in the opposite direction to a curve

screw·driv·er /ˈskruːˌdraɪvəʳ/ *n* **1** a tool with a narrow blade at one end which fits into the hole cut in the top of a screw for turning it into and out of its place —see picture at TOOL **2** an alcoholic drink made from VODKA and orange juice

screw top /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* a cover which is made to be twisted tightly onto the top of a bottle or other container —see picture at SCREW

screw·y /ˈskruːi/ *adj infml* strange or slightly mad: *Something has gone screwy in my calculation; this can't be the right answer.* | *He has lots of mad ideas, each one screwier than the last!*

scrib·ble[1] /ˈskrɪbəl/ *v* **1** [I] to write meaningless marks: *She can't write yet, but she loves to scribble with a pencil.* **2** [T] to write (usu. something that is hard to read) carelessly or in a hurry: *She scribbled a note to the milkman.*

scribble[2] *n* **1** [C] also **scribbles** *pl.*— a meaningless written marking **2** [S;U] (a way of) writing which is careless and hard to read: *His handwriting is nothing but (a) scribble.*

scrib·bler /ˈskrɪbləʳ/ *n derog or humor* a writer

scribe /skraɪb/ *n* a person employed to copy things in writing, esp. in times before the invention of printing

scrim·mage /ˈskrɪmɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] *infml* a disorderly fight between two or usu. more people **2** [C] (in AMERICAN FOOTBALL) the time that one team has possession of the ball from receiving a kick until they lose it **3** [U] a practice game (of football, BASKETBALL, etc.) often among members of the same team —see also LINE OF SCRIMMAGE —**scrimmage** *v* [I]

scrimp /skrɪmp/ *v* [I] to save money slowly and with difficulty, esp. by living less well than usual: *She had to* **scrimp and save** *to pay for her holiday.*

scrim·shaw /ˈskrɪmʃɔː/ *n* [U] *AmE* WHALE bones or IVORY that has been made into decorative shapes

scrip /skrɪp/ *n* [U] *tech* an official paper which allows the holder to get something, esp. paper printed for use as money in certain shops, at certain times, etc.

script /skrɪpt/ *n* **1** [C] a written form of a speech, play, film,

or broadcast: *to depart from the script* **2** [C;U] the set of letters used in writing a language; ALPHABET: *Anyone learning Arabic must learn Arabic script.* **3** [S;U] *fml* writing done by hand, esp. as in English with the letters of words joined: *He wrote with a flowing script.* | *copperplate script* **4** [C *usu. pl.*] *BrE* a piece of writing done by a student in an examination, to be read and given a mark by a teacher

script·ed /ˈskrɪptɨd/ *adj* (esp. of a speech or broadcast) having a SCRIPT (1) or read from a script —opposite **unscripted**

scrip·tur·al /ˈskrɪptʃərəl/ *adj* (*sometimes cap.*) of, found in, or according to a holy writing, esp. the Bible

scrip·ture /ˈskrɪptʃəʳ/ *n* [U] **1** also **the scriptures** *pl.*— (*usu. cap.*) (used by Christians) the Bible **2** also **scriptures** *pl.*— the holy books of the stated religion: *Buddhist scriptures*

script·writ·er /ˈskrɪptˌraɪtəʳ/ *n* a writer of scripts for films, broadcasts, etc.

scrof·u·la /ˈskrɒfjʊ̈lə‖ˈskrɔː-,ˈskrɑː-/ *n* [U] a disease in which organs in the neck become swollen —**-lous** *adj*

scroll[1] /skrəʊl/ *n* **1** a piece of paper or other writing material, with usu. official writing on it, that is or can be rolled up: *At the ceremony he was presented with a scroll commemorating his achievements.* | *parchment scrolls with ancient writings on them* **2** a decoration or shape like a rolled-up piece of paper —see also DEAD SEA SCROLLS

scroll[2] *v* [T;I(**up/down**)] *tech* to move (information) on a SCREEN[1] (4) connected to a computer, in a continuous movement from bottom to top: *How do you stop this thing scrolling?* | *Scroll down* (=towards the end of a FILE) *to see what the last line is.* | *Do I have to scroll up to the top before I close the file?*

scroll·work /ˈskrəʊlwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] decoration in a pattern of SCROLLS[1] (2)

scrooge /skruːdʒ/ *n infml derog* (*usu. cap.*) an extremely ungenerous person who keeps all their money for themselves (from the character of Ebenezer Scrooge in the story *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, who is very mean and thinks that Christmas is a waste of time and money): *Campaigners have hit out at scrooge companies for failing to help them financially.* | *My landlord makes Scrooge look extravagant.* | *a heartless Scrooge*

Scrooge



scro·tum /ˈskrəʊtəm/ *n* **-ta** /tə/ *or* **-tums** *tech* the bag of flesh holding the TESTICLES of male animals

scrounge /skraʊndʒ/ *v* [I;T (**off**)] *infml, often derog* to get (something) without work or payment or by persuading others: *He's always scrounging off his friends.* (=esp. getting money from them) | *Can I scrounge a cigarette off you?* —**scrounger** *n* : *The government plans to clamp down on social security scroungers.*

scrub[1] /skrʌb/ *v* **-bb-** **1** [I (**at**);T] to rub hard at (something) in order to clean, e.g. with a stiff brush: *You'll have to scrub hard to get that stain out|to scrub hard at that stain to get it out.* | *He scrubbed the floor (clean).* **2** [T] *infml* to remove from consideration or from a list; no longer do or have; CANCEL: *We've had to scrub our plans to go abroad this year; we've got no money.* —see CLEAN (USAGE)

scrub up *phr v* [I] (of a doctor) to wash one's hands and arms before doing an operation

scrub[2] *n* [S] an act of scrubbing: *Give that dirt|that floor a good hard scrub.*

scrub[3] *n* [U] low-growing plants including bushes and short trees growing in poor soil and usu. forming a thick covering over the ground —see also SCRUBBY

scrub·ber[1] /ˈskrʌbəʳ/ *n AmE* a hand-held plastic or wire mass used for cleaning pots and pans

scrubber[2] *n BrE derog sl* **1** a woman who has sex with many partners **2** a female PROSTITUTE

scrubbing brush /ˈ·· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ *usu.* **scrub brush** /ˈ· ·/ *AmE*— *n* a stiff brush for heavy cleaning jobs, like scrubbing floors —see picture at BRUSH

scrub·by /ˈskrʌbi/ *adj* **1** covered by, made of, or like SCRUB[3] **2** *infml derog* of small size or importance

Scrubs /skrʌbs/, **The** see WORMWOOD SCRUBS

scruff[1] /skrʌf/ *n* **the scruff of the neck** the flesh at the back of the neck: *He caught|grabbed|took him by the scruff of the neck and threw him out.*

scruff[2] *n BrE infml* a dirty and untidy person

scruf·fy /ˈskrʌfi/ *adj* dirty and untidy: *The hotel looked rather scruffy so we decided not to stay there.* | *What a scruffy little boy!*

scrum /skrʌm/ also **scrummage** *fml*— *n* **1** (in RUGBY) a group formed by the front players of both teams pushing against each other with their heads down and shoulders together, to try to get the ball which is thrown onto the ground between them —see picture at RUGBY **2** *BrE infml* (the forming of) a disorderly struggling crowd: *There was the usual scrum for tickets when the box office opened.*

scrum·half /ˌskrʌmˈhɑːf‖-ˈhæf/ *n* (in RUGBY) a player whose job is to put the ball into the scrum

scrum·mage /ˈskrʌmɪdʒ/ *v, n* [I] (in RUGBY) (to take part in) a scrum

scrump /skrʌmp/ *v* [T] *BrE infml* to steal fruit (esp. apples) from the trees it is growing on

scrump·tious /ˈskrʌmpʃəs/ *adj infml* (esp. of food) extremely good; DELICIOUS

scrum·py /ˈskrʌmpi/ *n* [U] a strong kind of CIDER (=an alcoholic apple drink) of South West England

scrunch /skrʌntʃ/ *v infml* **1** [T (UP)] to press and twist into a ball in the hand; CRUMPLE: *He scrunched up the envelope and threw it away.* **2** [I] to make the sound of being crushed together: *The gravel scrunched under our feet as we walked up the path.*

scru·ple[1] /ˈskruːpəl/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] a moral principle which keeps one from doing something; a doubt about the rightness of an action: *He has absolutely no scruples; he'll do anything to get what he wants.* **2** [U *usu. in negatives*] the desire to do what is right; conscience: *If it was the only way to get my son set free, I would act completely without scruple.* (=willingly do something bad or immoral)

scruple[2] *v* [I+*to-v*;*usu. in negatives*] to be unwilling to do something because one thinks it is wrong: *He wouldn't scruple to charge you double its value if he thought you'd pay.*

scru·pu·lous /ˈskruːpjʊ̈ləs/ *adj* **1** *fml* correct even in the smallest detail; exact: *You must take the most scrupulous care to keep the wound free from dirt.* **2** *apprec* carefully doing only what is right; exactly honest: *A less scrupulous man wouldn't have given the money back.* —opposite **unscrupulous** (for 2) — **~ly** *adv* : *scrupulously clean|fair* — **~ness** *n* [U]

scru·ti·neer /ˌskruːtɨˈnɪəʳ/ *n BrE* an official examiner or counter of votes in an election

scru·ti·nize also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈskruːtɨnaɪz/ *v* [T] to examine very closely and carefully: *The customs officer scrutinized his face for any signs of nervousness.*

scru·ti·ny /ˈskruːtɨni/ *n* [U] a close study or look; careful and thorough examination: *A minister's actions come under|are subjected to minute|continuous scrutiny in the press.*

scu·ba /ˈskuːbə/ *n* an instrument used for breathing while swimming under water, consisting of a container of air fastened to the back and connected by a rubber pipe to the mouth: *scuba diving*

scud /skʌd/ *v* **-dd-** [I+*adv/prep*] *lit* (esp. of clouds and ships) to move along quickly

Scud *n* a Soviet-developed surface-to-surface MISSILE (= flying weapon) fired from a movable or immovable base and carrying either a regular WARHEAD or NUCLEAR WARHEAD

scuff[1] /skʌf/ *v* [(UP)] **1** [T] to make a rough mark or marks on the smooth surface of (shoes, furniture, a floor, etc.): *The floor was badly scuffed (up) where they had been dancing.* **2** [I] (of shoes, floors, etc.) to be damaged in this way

scuff[2] also **scuff·mark** /ˈskʌfmɑːk‖-mɑːrk/— *n* a mark made by scuffing

scuf·fle /ˈskʌfəl/ *n* a disorderly fight among a few people, usu. not serious or long: *A few isolated scuffles broke out*

when police tried to move the demonstrators. –**scuffle** *v* [I (**with**)]

scull /skʌl/ *v* [I;T] to row (a small light boat, esp. for one person) – ~**er** *n*

scul·le·ry /ˈskʌləri/ *n* a room next to the kitchen, esp. in a large or old house, for rough cleaning jobs such as washing dishes and pots

scul·lion /ˈskʌljən/ *n old use* a boy doing cleaning work in a kitchen

sculp·tor /ˈskʌlptəʳ/ *n* someone who makes sculptures

sculp·tur·al /ˈskʌlptʃərəl/ *adj* of or looking like sculpture

sculp·ture[1] /ˈskʌlptʃəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] the art of shaping solid representations of people, animals, or objects out of stone, wood, clay, metal, etc.: *She studied sculpture at art school.* | *the sculpture class* **2** [C;U] (a piece of) work produced by this art: *There are some interesting abstract sculptures in this gallery.* –compare STATUE

sculpture[2] also **sculpt** /skʌlpt/– *v* [T] **1** to make by shaping: *sculptured pillars* | (fig.) *The water had sculptured the rocks into strange shapes.* **2** to make a figure of (a person or thing) in sculpture: *a Greek god sculptured in marble* –compare CARVE[1] (1)

scum /skʌm/ *n* **1** [S;U] a covering of usu. unpleasant material that forms on the surface of liquid: *When the meat is boiling, remove the scum.* **2** [P] *derog* worthless immoral people: *These scum who fight at football matches must be severely dealt with!* | *They are* **the scum of the earth.** (=the worst people in the world) **3** *derog* (used when speaking to a worthless immoral person) – ~**my** *adj*

scup·per[1] /ˈskʌpəʳ/ *v* [T] *BrE* **1** to sink (one's own ship) intentionally **2** [*usu. pass.*] *infml* to wreck or ruin (a plan, chance, etc.)

scupper[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] an opening in the side of a ship at the level of the DECK (=upper floor) to allow water to run off it into the sea

scurf /skɜːf‖skɜːrf/ *n* [U] small dry loose bits of dead skin, esp. in the hair – ~**y** *adj*

scur·ril·i·ty /skəˈrɪlɨti, skʌ-/ *n* [U] *fml* scurrilousness or scurrilous language

scur·ri·lous /ˈskʌrɨləs‖ˈskɜːr-/ *adj fml* making or containing very rude, improper, or evil and usu. untrue statements: *He has been the target of some scurrilous attacks in the newspapers.* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

scur·ry[1] /ˈskʌri‖ˈskɜːri/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to move hastily, esp. with short quick steps; hurry: *The mouse scurried into its hole when the cat appeared.*

scurry[2] *n* [S;U] a movement or esp. sound of scurrying: *I heard the scurry of feet in the hall.*

scur·vy[1] /ˈskɜːvi‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] a disease marked by bleeding and caused by not eating fruit and vegetables with VITAMIN C: *In former times, sailors often suffered from scurvy.*

scurvy[2] *adj* [A] *old-fash* dishonourable; deserving no respect; DESPICABLE: *What a* **scurvy trick** *to let your friend take the blame for your mistake!* –**-vily** *adv*

scut·tle[1] /ˈskʌtl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to rush with short quick steps, esp. in order to escape: *The children scuttled off/away when they saw the policeman.*

scuttle[2] *v* [T] to sink (a ship, esp. one's own) by making holes in the bottom

scuttle[3] *n* a COALSCUTTLE

scut·tle·butt /ˈskʌtlbʌt/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* interesting but possibly untrue story; GOSSIP

scuz·zy /ˈskʌzi/ *adj AmE sl* unpleasant and dirty

Scyl·la and Cha·ryb·dis /ˌsɪlə ənd kəˈrɪbdɨs/ **between Scylla and Charybdis** between two things which are equally dangerous (from the ancient stories of a MONSTER and a WHIRLPOOL which threatened sailors in the sea between Italy and Sicily)

scythe[1] /saɪð/ *n* a tool that has a long curving blade fixed to a long wooden pole and is worked with a swinging movement to cut grain or long grass –compare SICKLE

scythe[2] *v* [I;T (DOWN, **through**)] to cut down (as if) with a scythe: *The motorbike scythed (a path) through the crowd.*

SD *written abbrev. for* SOUTH DAKOTA

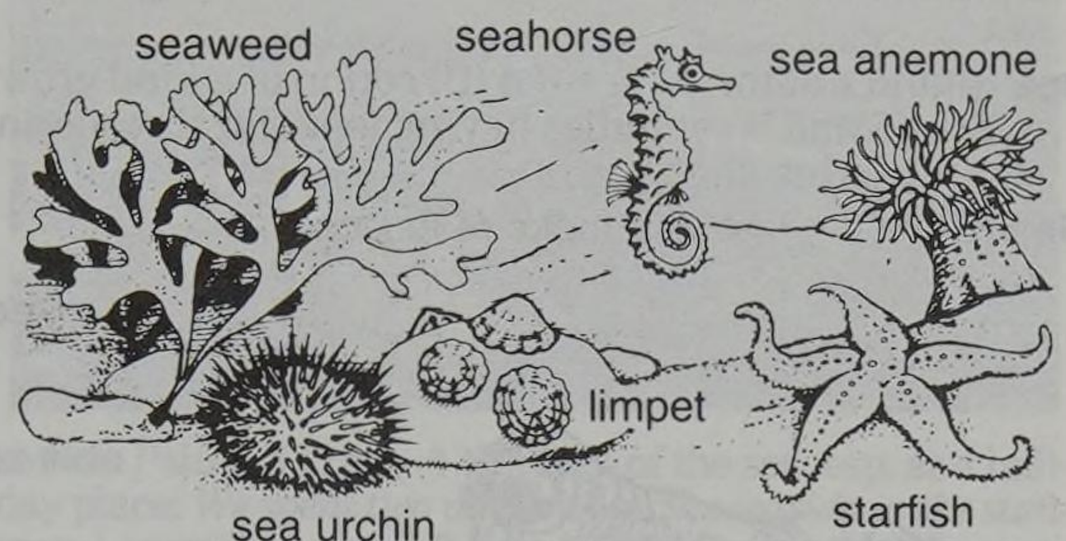
SDI /ˌes diː ˈaɪ/ Strategic Defence Initiative; a US government plan for the use of special weapons to destroy enemy MISSILES in space –see also STAR WARS

SDLP /ˌes diː el ˈpiː/ [*the*] Social Democrat and Labour Party; a party formed in N Ireland in 1970 with mainly CATHOLIC supporters and whose aim is to unite N Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

SDP /ˌes diː ˈpiː/ *n abbrev. for:* SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SE *written abbrev. for:* southeast(ern)

sea



sea /siː/ *n* **1** [(*the*) U] *esp. BrE* ‖ **ocean** *esp. AmE*–the great body of salty water that covers much of the Earth's surface; ocean: *I enjoy swimming in the sea (esp.BrE)/in the ocean (esp. AmE).* | *boats sailing on the sea* | *Two thirds of the Earth is covered by sea.* | *The sea is calm today.* (=with not many big waves) | *A gale is forecast, so we can expect rough/heavy/stormy seas.* (=with big waves) | *She lives in a little cottage by the sea.* (=on the coast) | *He travelled by air, but sent his heavy luggage* **by sea.** (=on a ship) | *We've now been* **at sea** *three days.* (=our ship's voyage has lasted three days) | *He was buried at sea.* (=his dead body was dropped into the sea from a boat) | *We shall* **put to sea** (=start our voyage) *on the next high tide.* | *When he was 15 he ran away* **to sea.** (=to become a sailor) | *a sea voyage* –see also HIGH SEAS **2** [C] (*often cap., esp. as part of a name*) a large body of salty water smaller than an ocean, either **a** a part of the ocean: *the North Sea* (northeast of Britain) **b** a body of water (mostly) enclosed by land: *the Dead Sea* | *the Mediterranean Sea* **3** [S (**of**)] a large mass or quantity spread out in front of one: *The actor looked out from the stage onto a sea of faces.* **4** [C] (*usu. cap. as part of a name*) any of a number of broad plains on the moon: *the Sea of Tranquillity* **5 at sea** *infml* as if lost; not understanding: *I'm afraid I'm all/completely at sea with this maths problem.* **6 go down to the sea in ships** *phrase from the Bible* a slightly changed phrase from the Book of Psalms, used as a formal or poetic way of saying "go to sea" –see also DEAD SEA, SEA LEGS

sea air /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the fresh air at the seaside, said by many people to be good for one: *Let's go for a walk on the beach and take in some sea air.*

sea a·nem·o·ne /ˈ· ·ˌ···/ also **anemone**– *n* a simple sea animal with a jelly-like body and brightly-coloured flower-like parts that can often sting –see picture at SEA

sea·bed /ˈsiːbed/ [*the*] the land at the bottom of the sea

Sea·bee /ˈsiːˌbiː/ *n* a member of the US Navy division that builds structures needed in areas where there is fighting

sea·bird /ˈsiːbɜːd‖-bɜːrd/ *n* any of the birds living near the sea or finding food in it

sea·board /ˈsiːbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* the part of a country along a seacoast: *the eastern seaboard of the US*

sea·borne /ˈsiːbɔːn‖-bɔːrn/ *n* carried or brought in ships: *a seaborne attack* | *seaborne trade*

sea breeze /ˈ· ·, ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a cool light wind blowing from the sea onto the land

sea cap·tain /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n not tech* a person in command of a ship, esp. one carrying goods for trade

sea change /ˈ· ·/ *n* a complete change in the character or nature of something: *His public image underwent a drmatic sea change.*

sea dog /ˈ· ·/ *n lit or humor* a sailor with long experience

sea·far·ing /ˈsiːˌfeəɾɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *esp. lit* **1** of, about, or doing the job of a sailor: *a seafaring man* | *a story from my seafaring days* **2** having strong connections with the sea and sailing: *Britain is a seafaring nation.*

sea·food /ˈsiːfuːd/ *n* [U] fish and fishlike animals from the sea, esp. SHELLFISH, which can be eaten

sea·front /ˈsiːfrʌnt/ *n* [C;*the*] the part of a coastal town that is on the edge of the sea, often with a broad path along it for holiday visitors: *a seafront hotel*

sea·girt /ˈsiːgɜːt‖-gɜːrt/ *n poet* surrounded by the sea

sea·go·ing /ˈsiːˌgəʊɪŋ/ *adj* [A] OCEANGOING

sea·gull /ˈsiːgʌl/ *n* a GULL[1] —see picture at WATER BIRD

sea·horse /ˈsiːhɔːs‖-hɔːrs/ *n* a very small fish with a neck and head that look like those of a horse —see picture at SEA

sea is·land cot·ton /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] cotton of a kind grown in the US and West Indies having long soft threads and making a fine cloth

Sea King /ˈ· ˌ·/ *tdmk* a make of HELICOPTER

seal



walrus



seal (n)

seal[1] /siːl/ *n* **seals** *or* **seal** a large fish-eating animal living mostly on cool seacoasts and floating ice, with FLIPPERS (=broad flat limbs) suitable for swimming

seal[2] *n* **1** the official mark of a government, company, etc., often made by pressing a pattern into red WAX or making an unremovable mark on paper, which is fixed to certain formal and official writings: *This document carries the royal seal.* | (fig.) *The scheme has the chairman's* **seal of approval.** (=he thinks it is very good) | *The Great Seal of the United States* **2** a small piece of paper, WAX, or wire fastened across an opening **a** to stop people from opening it without permission **b** to protect it from esp. air or water: *The seal on this bottle is broken.* **3** [*usu. sing.*] a tight connection on a machine, for keeping gas or liquid in or out: *The seal has worn and the machine is losing oil.* **4 set the seal on** *lit* to bring to an end in a suitable way; formally end: *This international award has set the seal on a long and distinguished career.*

seal[3] *v* [T] **1** to fix a SEAL[2] (1) onto: *an official document, signed and sealed* **2** [(UP, DOWN)] to fasten or close (as if) with a SEAL[2] (2) or a tight cover or band of something: *The envelope was firmly sealed.* | *She sealed the parcel with sticky tape.* | *These birds seal (up) the holes and cracks in their nests with mud.* | *The platoon was sent out* **under sealed orders.** (=secret orders not to be read until a particular time or place) | (fig.) *I'm sorry, I can't tell you;* **my lips are sealed.** (=I have promised not to tell) **3** [**(by, with)**] to settle; make (more) certain, formal, or solemn: *They sealed their agreement by shaking hands.* **4 seal someone's fate/doom** *infml* to make someone's death, punishment, or ruin certain: *The bank's refusal to lend any more money sealed the company's fate.*

seal sthg./sbdy. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to keep inside or contained without a chance to escape

seal sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to close tightly so as not to allow entrance or escape: *Police sealed off the area where the murderer was known to be hiding.*

sea lane /ˈ· ·/ *n* see LANE (4)

sea legs /ˈ· ·/ *n* [P] *infml* the ability to walk, feel comfortable, and not be sick on a moving ship: *He* **found his sea legs** =got used to being on a boat) *after a couple of days.*

seal·er[1] /ˈsiːlərˠ/ also **seal·ant** /ˈsiːlənt/ *n* [C;U] a thing or material which SEAL*S*[3] (2), esp. (a covering of) paint, polish, etc., on a surface to keep other liquids from going into or through it

sealer[2] *n* a person or ship that hunts SEAL*S*[1]

sea lev·el /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the average height of the sea, used as a standard for measuring heights on land: *Mount Everest is 29,028 feet above sea level.* | *Death Valley in California is 280 feet below sea level.*

seal·ing /ˈsiːlɪŋ/ *n* [U] the hunting or catching of SEAL*S*[1]

sealing wax /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] a solid substance, often red and sold in small bars, which melts and then hardens quickly, and is used for SEAL*S*[2] (1,2)

Sea·link Sten·a Line /ˌsiːlɪŋk ˈstenə ˌlaɪn/ a private company which takes people and goods by sea from England to France, Ireland, and the islands to the south of England

sea li·on /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* **sea lions** *or* **sea lion** a large SEAL[1] of the Pacific Ocean, often used to perform tricks in the CIRCUS

seal·skin /ˈsiːlˌskɪn/ *n* [U] the skin or fur of certain kinds of SEAL*S*[1], esp. as used in clothing or made into leather. It is far less popular than formerly and to some people unacceptable after films were seen showing the violence of the CULL (=killing) and the large number of seals being killed including babies whose fur was esp. desirable.

Sea·ly·ham /ˈsiːliəm‖ˈsiːlihæm/ *n* a small dog with short legs and white fur; so-called because they were originally from the village of Sealyham in Wales

seam /siːm/ *n* **1** a line of stitches joining two pieces of cloth, leather, etc.: *to tack a seam* | (fig.) *The little hall was practically* **bursting at the seams.** (=it was completely full of people) —see picture at SHOE **2** the crack, line, or raised mark where two edges meet: *They used to fill the seams of wooden boats* (=the cracks between the pieces of wood) *with tar to stop the water getting in.* **3** a narrow band of one kind of mineral, esp. coal, between masses of other rocks: *a coal seam* —compare VEIN **4 come apart at the seams a** (of clothing or cloth) to be separating at the seams usu. because the stitching is old or poor: *Those trousers are coming apart at the seams.* **b** (an expression) to fail completely; to be ruined: *First I had the flu and now I've broken my arm — I think I'm coming apart at the seams!* | *Our plans for a holiday this year are coming apart at the seams.* —~**less** *adj* : *seamless stockings*

sea·man /ˈsiːmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** a sailor on a ship, other than an officer **2** a member of a navy in any of the lowest group of ranks, below PETTY OFFICER **3** a man skilled in handling ships at sea —see also ABLE SEAMAN

sea·man·like /ˈsiːmənlaɪk/ *adj apprec* typical of a good and skilful seaman

sea·man·ship /ˈsiːmənʃɪp/ *n* [U] the skill of handling a ship and directing its course

seam bowl·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* (in cricket) a BOWLER who makes the ball BOUNCE on its SEAM and so turn away from a straight line

sea mile /ˈ· ·/ *n* a NAUTICAL MILE

sea mist /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] (a) mist on land coming in from the sea or caused by a warm wind from the sea

seam·stress /ˈsiːmstrɨs/ *n* a woman whose job is sewing

seam·y /ˈsiːmi/ *adj* (not of a person) unpleasant, esp. in being rough and immoral; SORDID: *The novel gives a vivid description of* **the seamy side** *of city life.* —**-iness** *n* [U]

sé·ance /ˈseɪɑːns, -ɒns‖ˈseɪɑːns/ *n* a meeting where people try to talk to or receive messages from the spirits of dead people

►CULTURAL NOTE A typical séance takes place in a darkened room with people sitting around a table holding hands with each other. There is a MEDIUM present who goes into a TRANCE and who then becomes the instrument through which the spirits answer the questions of the people present who are usu. trying to contact dead friends or relatives. Sometimes a OUIJA board is used. Everyone puts a finger on e.g. an upturned glass in the middle of the board and a question is asked. The glass then moves around the board without pressure from the people and spells out the answers. There are many people who believe these happenings are tricks and the established Church does not approve of séances.◄

Sea of Mar·ma·ra /ˌsiː əv ˈmɑːmərə‖-ˈmɑːr-/ [*the*] an INLAND (=surrounded by land) sea in NW Turkey, between the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles

sea·plane /ˈsiːpleɪn/ *n* an aircraft which can take off from and come down on water

sea·port /ˈsiːpɔːt‖-pɔːrt/ *n* a large town on a coast or connected to a coast by water, with a HARBOUR used by large ships

sea pow·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* **1** [U] the strength of a country's navy **2** [C] a country with a powerful navy

sear[1] /sɪəˠ/ *v* [T] **1** to burn with sudden powerful heat:

(fig.) *The terrible experience is seared on|into my memory.* (=so that I shall never be able to forget it) **2** to cook the outside of (a piece of meat) quickly, usu. to keep its juice in **3** to dry up (a plant); cause to WITHER —see also SEARING

sear[2] *adj* SERE

search[1] /sɜːtʃ‖sɜːrtʃ/ *v* **1** [I (**through**);T (**for**)] to look at, through, into, etc., or examine (a place or person) carefully and thoroughly to try to find something: *I've been searching high and low|everywhere but I can't find it.* | *He searched through his pockets for a cigarette.* | *Scientists are still searching for a cure to the common cold.* | *She searched desperately for some reason to stay.* | *We searched the house from top to bottom.* | *The police searched the suspect but found no weapon on him.* | *They searched the woods for the little boy.* | *a computer program that searches text for spelling errors* | *She searched his face for some indication of how he felt.* | (Fig.) *I've* **searched my conscience** (=thought hard about whether I acted correctly) *and I still think I did the right thing.* | *(fml) to search after truth* **2 Search 'me!** *infml* I don't know!: *"What's the time?" "Search me; I haven't got a watch."* —~**er** *n*

search sthg./sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to find (out) or uncover by searching: *With clever questioning the lawyer searched out the weaknesses in the witness's statement.*

search[2] *n* [(**for**)] **1** an act of searching: *The police conducted a long search for the lost child.* | *We did a computer search for all the hyphenated words.* | *I went off* **in search of** (=to try to find) *a garage where I could buy some petrol.*| *birds flying south in search of winter sun* **2 search and rescue** an act of searching, esp. in the mountains, sea, forest, etc., for people who are lost and may need medical help when found. This is often done by people who are specially trained: *a search and rescue operation for the lost boy*

search·ing /'sɜːtʃɪŋ‖'sɜːr-/ *adj* sharp and thorough; anxious to discover the truth; PENETRATING: *She gave me a searching look, as if doubting what I told her.* | *a searching review of police procedures* —~**ly** *adv*

search·light /'sɜːtʃlaɪt‖'sɜːr-/ *n* a large light with a powerful beam which can be turned in any direction, used for looking for aircraft in the sky at night, for lighting up prison walls so that prisoners cannot escape in the dark, etc.

search par·ty /'· ˌ··/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people searching, esp. for a lost person: *After the climbers had been missing for six hours, search parties were sent out.*

search war·rant /'· ˌ··/ *n* a written order given by a court to police to allow them to search a place, e.g. to look for stolen goods. Police may not enter a building and search it without either the owner's permission or a search warrant: *to issue a search warrant*

sear·ing /'sɪərɪŋ/ *adj* **1** burning; unpleasantly hot: *A searing pain shot through her leg.* | *the searing heat of the desert* **2** *infml* causing or describing very strong feelings, esp. of a sexual kind: *a searing novel of love and passion*

Sears /sɪəz‖sɪərz/ also **Sears Roe·buck & Co.** /ˌ· '·· · ˌ·/ —*n* a large national American store which sells tools, clothing, and almost everything for the family through its many branch stores and also through its MAIL-ORDER CATALOGUE

seas /siːz/ *n* [(*the*)U] the great body of salty water that covers much of the Earth's surface; ocean —see also HIGH SEAS, SEA

sea·scape /'siːskeɪp/ *n* a picture of a scene at sea —compare LANDSCAPE[1] (2)

sea scout /'· ·/ *n* (*often caps.*) a member of a group of usu. young people who specialize in sea and water activities —see also SCOUT

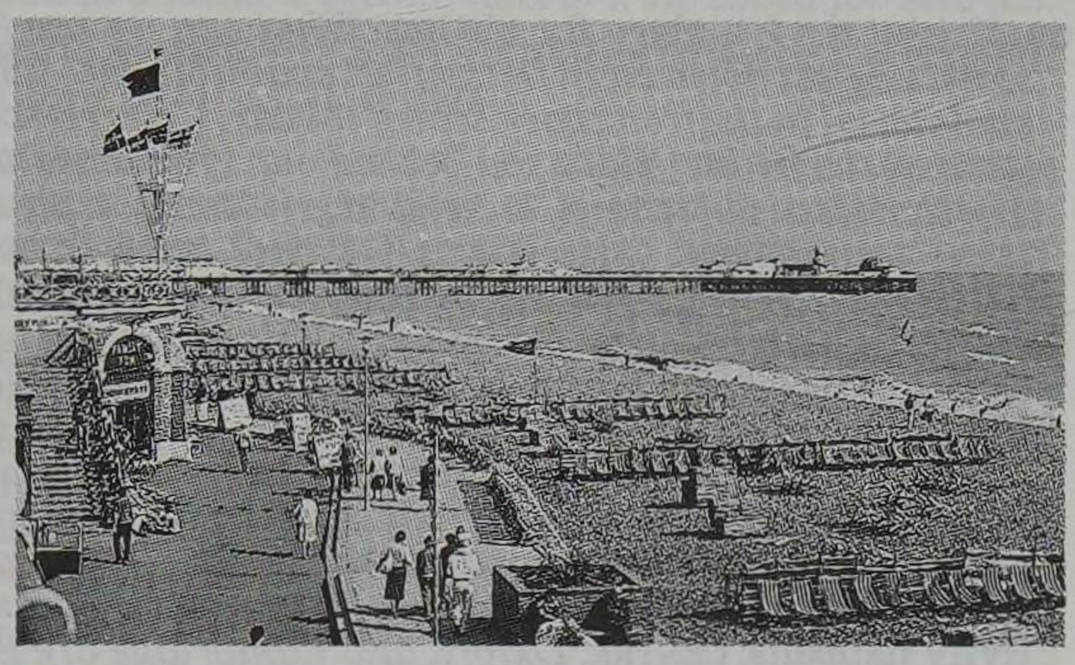
sea ser·pent /'· ˌ··/ *n* an imaginary large snake-like animal once believed to live in the sea: *Old maps often picture sea serpents swimming in the oceans.*

sea·shell /'siːʃel/ also **shell**— *n* a shell of a sea animal, such as a COCKLE, WINKLE, etc., esp. as found on the seashore. When people find large seashells they often hold them to their ears because it is said that if you do this you will hear the sound of the sea coming from the shell.

sea·shore /'siːʃɔːr/ *n* [(*the*) U] land along the edge of the sea, usu. sand or rocks

sea·sick /'siːˌsɪk/ *adj* sick because of the movement of a ship —~**ness** *n* [U]

seaside



sea·side /'siːsaɪd/ [*the*] **1** the edge of the sea, esp. as a holiday place: *We spent two weeks at|by the seaside in the summer.* | *seaside resorts* **2 I do like to be beside the seaside** the first line of a popular old British song now used in other ways: *Britons no longer like to be beside the seaside: the era of the bucket and spade holiday seems to be over.* —see SHORE (USAGE), compare BEACH, COAST —see also extra information on page 630

►CULTURAL NOTE A lot of British people go to the seaside for their summer holidays, and the STEREOTYPE is of them sitting on the beach with a picnic even if the weather is cold and windy. The parents sit in DECKCHAIRS and try to get a TAN as soon as the sun comes out. The children build SANDCASTLES with buckets and spades, go for DONKEY rides, and eat ROCK[2] (4) or ICECREAM. When they are tired of the beach they may go for a walk along the PROMENADE or PIER.◄

sea·son[1] /'siːzən/ *n* **1** spring, summer, autumn, or winter **2** a period of time each year marked by **a** weather: *the rainy season* **b** greater or less activity: *After Christmas is the quiet season for business.* **c** a sporting activity: *(The) football season begins next week.* **d** a particular farming activity: *the planting season* **e** a particular animal activity: *the mating season* **f** hunting, fishing, etc.: *the coarse fishing season* **3** *infml for* SEASON TICKET **4 in season: a** (of fresh foods) at the time when they are usually ready for eating: *Fruit is cheapest in season.* **b** (esp. of holiday business) at the busiest time of year: *Hotels cost more in season.* **c** (of certain female animals) on HEAT[2] (4) **d** (of an animal) permitted to be hunted at the time: *Are grouse in season now?* **5 out of season** not in SEASON[1] (4a, b) **6 Season's Greetings!** (a greeting on a card sent during the Christmas SEASON (2g)) esp. in the US, this greeting is often sent to people who are not Christians and to whom it might be unsuitable to say "Merry Christmas" **7 season of goodwill** a way of describing Christmas, suggesting that it is a time when people should behave in a kind, friendly way to each other **8 season of mists and mellow fruitfulness** *quote* the first line of the poem *To Autumn* by John Keats, remembered and reused by many people: *Does the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness send you scurrying to the shops to get your Christmas shopping done?* —see also CLOSE SEASON, HIGH SEASON, LOW SEASON, OPEN SEASON, SILLY SEASON

season[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**with**)] to give special taste to (a food) by adding salt, pepper, a SPICE, etc. —see also SEASONING **2** to make (wood) hard and fit for use by gradual drying

sea·so·na·ble /'siːzənəbəl/ *adj fml* **1** suitable or useful for the time of year: *seasonable weather.* **2** coming at a good or proper time: *seasonable advice* —compare SEASONAL —**-bly** *adv*

sea·son·al /'siːzənəl/ *adj* depending on the seasons, esp. happening or active only at a particular time of the year: *seasonal employment at a holiday camp* —compare SEASONABLE

seasonally ad·just·ed fig·ures /ˌ··· ·ˌ·· '··/ *n* [P] the number of people with no job which increases at certain times of the year, e.g. in February which is a low period for farmers and in July when young people leave school: *The seasonally-adjusted figure has risen by 70,000.*

sea·soned /'siːzənd/ *adj apprec* having much experience in the stated activity: *a seasoned traveller|journalist*

sea·son·ing /'siːzənɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] something that seasons food

season tick·et /'·· ˌ··‖ˌ·· '··/ also **season** *infml*— *n* a ticket

for a number of journeys, performances, etc. during a particular period, sold at a lower price than you would have to pay altogether if you paid for each journey, etc. separately —compare COMMUTATION TICKET

seat[1] /siːt/ *n* **1** a place for sitting: *What can we use for seats?* | *He sat down on/in the nearest available seat.* | *She got into/sat in the front/back seat of the car.* | *We reserved seats on the train.* | *Have you booked our theatre seats?* | *The show is about to start, ladies and gentlemen, so please* **take your seats.** (=sit down) | *Please come in and have/take a seat.* | *a 150-seat airliner* **2** [*usu. sing.*] the part on which one sits: *He had grass stains on the seat of his trousers.* | *Don't put your feet on the seat of the chair.* | *My seat's rather sore from horse riding!* **3** a place as a member of an official or controlling body: *She won a seat/lost her seat in Parliament at the election.* | *Her ambition is a seat on the company's main board.* | *a safe Labour seat* **4** [**(of)**] *fml* a place where a particular activity happens; CENTRE: *Oxford and Cambridge are England's most famous seats of learning.* | *London is the British* **seat of government.** **5** *tech* a way of sitting on a horse: *She's got a good seat.* (=rides well) **6 by the seat of one's pants** *infml* guided by one's experience rather than by machines, help from others, a formal plan, etc.: *With all her navigational equipment broken, she was flying by the seat of her pants.* **7 in the 'driving seat** (*BrE*) ‖ **in the driver's seat** (*AmE*) in control **8 -seater** /siːtəʳ/something with the stated number of seats or places to sit: *My little car's just a two-seater.* | *a three-seater sofa* —see also BACK SEAT, HOT SEAT

seat[2] *v* [T] **1** [*often pass.*] to cause or help to sit: *I glanced at the man seated next to me.* (=the man who was sitting next to me). | (*fml*) *Please* **be seated.** (=sit down) **2** [*not in progressive forms*] (of a room, table, etc.) to have room for seats for (a certain number of people): *The hall seats/will seat 200.* —see also SEATING **3** to fit (esp. a machine part) into a hole or close fitting place: *Make sure the washer is firmly seated before tightening the pipe.* —see also UNSEAT; see SIT (USAGE)

seat belt /'· ·/ also **safety belt**— *n* a belt fastened round a seated person in a car, plane, etc., to protect them from sudden movement. Seat belts must be worn at all times in Britain by drivers and front seat passengers and by back seat passengers in cars which have them fitted. In the US, seat belt laws vary from state to state —see picture at CAR

seat·ing /'siːtɪŋ/ *n* [U] (a way of arranging) seats: *a seating plan for the dinner guests* | *the seating capacity of the hall* (=the number of people who can sit in it)

SEATO /'siːtəʊ/ Southeast Asia Treaty Organization; an organization formed by Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and the US for giving military help to each other in Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific area

Se·at·tle /siˈætl/ a city and port in W Washington state, in the US; a business and industrial centre —see colour map on pages 1374–5

seat·work /'siːtwɜːk ‖ -wɜːrk/ *n* [U] *AmE* work, esp. written work, done by children at their desks at school without help from their teacher

sea ur·chin /'· ˌ··/ *n* a small ball-shaped sea animal that has a hard shell with many sharp points —see picture at SEA

sea·wall /ˌsiːˈwɔːl‖'siːwɔːl/ *n* a wall built along the edge of the sea to keep it from flowing over an area of land

sea·ward /'siːwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* **1** facing or directed towards the sea **2** coming in off the sea: *a seaward wind*

sea·wards /'siːwədz‖-wərdz/ also **seaward** — *adv* towards the sea

sea·way /'siːweɪ/ *n* **1** a course commonly followed by ships on the sea **2** a river or similar stretch of deep water, allowing ocean ships to travel far inside land

sea·weed /'siːwiːd/ *n* [U] a plant that grows in the sea; some seaweed is used for food —see also LAVER and see picture at SEA

sea·wor·thy /'siːwɜːðiǁ-ɜːr-/ *adj* (of a ship) in proper and safe condition; fit for a sea voyage —**-thiness** *n* [U]

se·bum /'siːbəm/ *n* fatty matter which comes out from under the skin to oil the hair and skin

SEC /ˌes iː 'siː/ *abbrev. for:* SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

sec[1] /sek/ *n infml for* SECOND[2] (3): *Just hang on/wait a sec, will you?*

sec[2] *abbrev. for:* SECRETARY (3)

sec·a·teurs /'sekətɜːzǁˌsekə'tɜːrz/ *ns* [P] *BrE* strong scissors for cutting bits off garden plants —see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at GARDEN

se·cede /sɪ'siːd/ *v* [I (**from**)] *fml* to formally leave a group or organization, esp. because of disagreement: *One of the states has seceded from the federation.*

se·ces·sion /sɪ'seʃən/ *n* [U] formal separation from a group or organization: *The secession of some southern states from the USA in the 1860s led to a civil war.* — **~ist** *n*

se·clude /sɪ'kluːd/ *v* [T (**in**)] *fml* to keep (esp. oneself) away from other people

se·clud·ed /sɪ'kluːdɨd/ *adj* very quiet and private: *a secluded country house* | *a secluded life*

se·clu·sion /sɪ'kluːʒən/ *n* [U] **1** the state of being secluded; quietness and privateness: *He lives in almost total seclusion these days.* **2** [**(of)**] the act of secluding: *In some countries the seclusion of women* (=keeping them away from men) *is still the custom.*

Se·combe /'siːkəm/, **Sir Harry** (1921–) a Welsh singer and COMEDIAN. He is popular performer on radio, television, stage, and cinema and is esp. remembered for his part in the GOON SHOW.

sec·ond[1] /'sekənd/ *determiner, adv, pron* 2nd: *That's the second time you've asked me that.* | *the Second World War* | *They're rich enough to own a second car.* (=they have 2 cars) | *a second-year student at university* | *Bill only finished second/in second place in the race.* | *He was/came a poor second.* (=a long way behind the first person) | *They hold elections* **every second year.** (=one year out of every two) | *I hear she's had another baby. Is that her second or her third?* | *the second of a series of programmes on Russia* | *First, what happened? Second, why?* | *the second-largest car manufacturer in the country* | *As car manufacturers they are* **second only to** *Nissan in size.* | *As a footballer he is* **second to none.** (=the best) | *He was the second oldest child.* (=there was only one older than him) —see TABLE 1; see FIRSTLY (USAGE)

second[2] *n* **1** a length of time equal to 1/60 of a minute: *His time for the 100 metre sprint was 10.2 seconds.* | *The seconds ticked by.* **2** *tech* a measure of an angle equal to 1/3600 of a degree, or 1/60 of a MINUTE[1] (3) **3** [*usu. sing.*] a moment: *I'll be back in a second.* | *Have you got a second?* (=I want to talk to you) —see also SPLIT SECOND

second[3] *n* **1** a person who helps someone who is fighting in a BOXING match or DUEL **2** [*usu. pl.*] *infml* a damaged or imperfect article for sale at a lower price: *If you want to buy dishes cheaply, you ought to get factory seconds.* **3** [**(in)**] the next-to-highest class of British university degree: *a second in history* —see also TWO-ONE, TWO-TWO; see DEGREE (CULTURAL NOTE)

second[4] *v* [T] to support formally (a formal suggestion made at a meeting), so that argument or voting can follow: *"Will anyone second this motion?" "I second it, Mr Chairman."* — **~er** *n* : *Is there a seconder for that motion?*

se·cond[5] /sɪ'kɒndǁsɪ'kɑːnd/ *v* [T (**from, to**) *usu. pass.*] *BrE fml* to move (someone) from their usual duties to a special duty, usu. for a limited time: *I've been seconded to the accounts department while they're short of staff.* — **~ment** *n* [C;U] : *She is* **on secondment** *to the accounts department at the moment.*

Second Ad·vent /ˌ·· '··/ *n* SECOND COMING

sec·ond·a·ry /'sekəndəriǁ-deri/ *adj* **1** (of education, a teacher, etc.) for children from the age of 11 or 12 up to the age of 16 or 18 —compare PRIMARY[1] (2) **2** [**(to)**] not so important, valuable, etc., as the main one(s): *In addition to the main question, there are various secondary matters to talk about.* | *All other considerations are secondary to his safety.* **3** *tech* later than, developing from, taken from, etc., something earlier or original: *a secondary infection brought on by a cold* —**-rily** /'sekəndərɨliǁˌsekən'derɨli/ *adv*

secondary col·our /ˌ···· '··/ *n* a colour made by mixing two PRIMARY COLOURS (=red, yellow, or blue)

secondary mod·ern /ˌ···· '··/ also **secondary modern school** /ˌ···· '·· ˌ·/— *n* (in Britain, esp. formerly) a school for children over the age of 11 who are not expected to go on to higher study later. Although most children go

to COMPREHENSIVE[2] schools now, there are still some secondary modern schools. —compare COMPREHENSIVE[2], GRAMMAR SCHOOL (1)

secondary school /ˈ···· ˌ·/ *n* a school for children between the ages of 11 and 16 or 18, above the level of PRIMARY education —compare PRIMARY SCHOOL, COMPREHENSIVE[2], GRAMMAR SCHOOL, SECONDARY MODERN; see also extra information on page 407

secondary stress /ˌ···· ˈ·/ also **secondary ac·cent** /ˌ···· ˈ··/— *n* [C;U] *tech* the next-to-strongest STRESS (=force) given in speech to part of a word or compound, and shown in this dictionary by the mark ˌ

second base /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **1** the base in BASEBALL which must be touched second by a BATTER trying to make a RUN[2] (10b) **2** also **second baseman**— the person who defends the area around the second base

second best /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* not as good as the best: *my second-best trousers | The shop didn't have quite what we wanted so we had to settle for second best. | England* **came off second best** (=were defeated) *in the big football match.*

second child·hood /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [S] *euph* the period when an old person's mind becomes weak and childish; DOTAGE

second class /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **1** [U] a class of mail **a** (in Britain) in which letters and parcels are delivered less quickly than by FIRST CLASS: *I sent it second class.* **b** (in the US and Canada) for newspapers and magazines **2** [U] the travelling conditions which are cheaper than FIRST CLASS, esp. on a train: *We're travelling second class.* **3** [C] *fml for* SECOND[3] (3)

second-class /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** below the highest standard; INFERIOR: *Why should women be treated as* **second-class citizens?** **2** [A] of, for, or being second class: *a second-class stamp|ticket*

Second Com·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the future coming of Christ to Earth from heaven to judge the world on the last day, as believed by Christians

second cous·in /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* the child of one's parent's COUSIN (1)

second-de·gree /ˌ·· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] (of a burn) of the next-to-highest level of seriousness; less serious than THIRD-DEGREE

second-guess /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *v* [T] *AmE infml* **1** to make a judgment about (someone or something) only afterwards, when an event has already taken place **2** to try to say in advance what (someone) will do, how (something) will happen, etc.

second-hand[1] /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj, adv* **1** owned or used by someone else before; not new: *a second-hand car | I got this book second-hand.* **2** (learnt) from someone or something other than the point of origin: *It was a second-hand report, based on what his friends had told him .* —compare FIRSTHAND

second-hand[2] *adj* [A] dealing in second-hand goods: *a second-hand shop*

second hand /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* the pointer that shows seconds on a clock or watch

second-in-com·mand /ˌ·· · ·ˈ·/ *n* a person, esp. a military officer, next in rank below the commander or director

second lan·guage /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a language which a person speaks in addition to the one they learned as a child, esp. when used frequently and well: *She was born in Greece and came to Britain when she was 12, so English is her second language.*

second lieu·ten·ant /ˌ·· ˌ·ˈ··/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

sec·ond·ly /ˈsekəndli/ *adv* as the second of a set of facts, reasons, etc.; SECOND: *First I need your name and address. Secondly, what's your date of birth?*

second na·ture /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a very firmly fixed habit: *It's second nature for me to get up early,* (=I always do it) *even though I'm retired now.*

second per·son /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*+S] a form of a verb or PRONOUN that is used to show the person spoken to: *"You" is a second person pronoun. | "You are" is the second person singular and plural of "to be".* —compare FIRST PERSON, THIRD PERSON

second-rate /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* of low quality; INFERIOR: *a second-rate film* —compare FIRST-RATE

second read·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* the second reading out of a suggested new law in parliament — see BILL[1] (2) (CULTURAL NOTE)

sec·onds /ˈsekəndz/ *n* [P] *infml* an additional serving of food at a meal; a second HELPING: *He asked for seconds.*

second sight /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the ability to see or know about future or far-away things

second-string /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] being one who sometimes comes in to take the place of another in a team, group, etc., rather than being a regular member —compare FIRST-STRING

second thought /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] a thought that a usu. past decision or opinion may not be right: *I said I wouldn't do it, but* **on second thoughts** (*BrE*) ‖ **on second thought** (*AmE*) *I think I will. | We'd decided to sell our house, but then we began to have second thoughts. | He'd betray his own mother without a second thought.*

second wind /ˌsekənd ˈwɪnd/ *n* [S] the return of one's strength during hard physical activity, when it seemed that one had become too tired to continue: (fig.) *She was struggling with the new job at first, but now she's got her second wind she's doing very well.*

Second World War /ˌ·· ˌ· ˈ·/ also **World War II**— [*the*] (1939–45) a war involving every major power in the world. On one side were the Allied forces (chiefly Great Britain, France, Poland, and after 1941 the US, and the USSR) and on the other side the Axis forces (Germany, Japan, and Italy). The main reason for the war was the rise of governments which exercised complete control over everyone and were prepared to use armed force to achieve their aims. The war ended when Germany surrendered (SURRENDER) and the American army dropped ATOMIC BOMBs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki forcing Japan to surrender. A large number of people were killed or wounded.

►CULTURAL NOTE Although many British people lost their lives during the Second World War, many people in Britain, esp. those who did not live in cities that were bombed, look back to the war with pride and even fondness. The soldiers who fought in the war, esp. the pilots, are thought of as HEROs. Many people who remained in Britain during the war did special jobs which they enjoyed, e.g. working on the land or being involved with the Home Guard (a group of volunteers who trained together to defend the country from attack). People remember the feelings of togetherness which the war brought to people, and they often remember with humour the hardships of the war years, e.g. the lack of certain fresh foods. People also remember many wartime songs with fondness, esp. those sung by Vera Lynn. —compare FIRST WORLD WAR. In the US ordinary people were not affected by the war as much as were people in Britain. The only attack on the US directly was by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which led the US to enter the war. —see also BATTLE OF BRITAIN, BLITZ, Winston CHURCHILL, D-DAY, DUNKIRK, RATION◄

se·cre·cy /ˈsiːkrəsi/ *n* [U] **1** the practice of keeping secrets: *Secrecy is important to our plans. | I have been* **sworn to secrecy** (=made to promise that I will not tell anyone) *about this.* **2** the state of being secret: *The plan was shrouded in secrecy.* (=kept very secret)

se·cret[1] /ˈsiːkrət/ *adj* **1** [(**from**)] that other people are prevented from knowing about: *These plans must be kept secret (from our competitors). | We discovered a secret passage behind the wall. | a secret rendezvous* —see also TOP-SECRET **2** [A] (of a person) not known by others to be the stated thing: *John is a* **secret admirer** *of Helen, though he has never spoken to her.* **3** [F (**about**)] careful in keeping secrets; SECRETIVE —~**ly** *adv* : *They were secretly married last week.*

secret[2] *n* **1** [C] something kept hidden or known only to a few people: *Our plan must remain a secret. | He has no secrets from me; he tells me everything. | Can you* **keep** (=not tell) **a secret?** | *closely-guarded|dark secrets* —see also OPEN SECRET **2** [C] something unexplained; mystery: *the secret of how life on earth began* **3** [S] a single or most important means of gaining a good result: *What's the secret of baking perfect bread?* (=How do you do it?) **4 in secret** in a private way or place; unknown to (most) others: *They met in secret to discuss the arrangements.*

secret a·gent /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a person gathering information secretly or doing secret jobs, esp. for a foreign government; SPY

sec·re·tar·i·al /ˌsekrəˈteəriəl◂/ *adj* of or for (the work of) a secretary: *a secretarial college* (=teaching people to be secretaries)

sec·re·tar·i·at /ˌsekrəˈteəriət/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] an official office or department with a SECRETARY (2) or esp. secretary-general as its head: *the United Nations Secretariat in New York*

Secretariat a horse which won many American horse races

sec·re·ta·ry /ˈsekrətəri‖-teri/ *n* **1** a person with the job of typing letters, keeping records, arranging meetings, etc., for someone: *She got a job as personal secretary to the company chairman.* | *His secretary says he's still out at lunch.* | *a good/efficient secretary*

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, the STEREOTYPE of a secretary is of a young, attractive woman who is very concerned about her appearance, and who spends a lot of time talking on the telephone to her friends, and filing (FILE (2)) her nails. In the US this image of a secretary is not as strong, but people do make jokes about bosses having AFFAIRS with their secretaries. —compare PA; see also COMPANY SECRETARY◄

2 a government official, such as **a** (in Britain) a minister (**Secretary of State**), or a high non-elected official (the **Permanent Secretary**) in a department: *the Home/Foreign Secretary* | *the Secretary of State for Home/Foreign Affairs* **b** (in the US) a non-elected head of a large department: *the Secretary of the Treasury* | *the Secretary of State* (=dealing with foreign affairs) **c** a government representative below the rank of AMBASSADOR: *the First/Second/Third Secretary at the British Embassy* **3** an official of an organization who keeps records, writes official letters, etc.: *the Honorary Secretary of the Golf Club* | *the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress*

secretary-gen·e·ral /ˌ···· ˈ···/ *n* (*sometimes cap.*) the chief official in charge of running a large organization, esp. an international organization or a political party: *the Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Secretary of State /ˌ···· · ˈ·/ [*the*] **1** a politician who is head of a certain government department e.g. Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, or the Environment, Education and Science, etc. **2** *AmE* a politician who is in charge of affairs abroad —compare FOREIGN SECRETARY

secret drink·er /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a person who often drinks alcohol, but does not want other people to know this

se·crete[1] /sɪˈkriːt/ *v* [T] *tech* (esp. of an animal or plant organ) to produce (a usu. liquid substance): *Tears are secreted by an organ under the upper eyelid.* —compare EXCRETE

secrete[2] *v* [T] *fml* to put (something) where it cannot be seen or found; hide

se·cre·tion /sɪˈkriːʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] *tech* **a** a usu. liquid material produced by part of a plant or animal **b** the production of such material **2** [U] *fml* the act of hiding something

se·cre·tive /ˈsiːkrətɪv, sɪˈkriːtɪv/ *adj* [(**about**)] *often derog* liking to keep one's thoughts, intentions, or actions hidden from other people —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

secret po·lice /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*) +*sing./pl. v*] a government-controlled police force that acts in secret, esp. against political enemies of the government. They usu. operate in countries which are not DEMOCRATIC.

secret ser·vice /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* **1** *BrE, not tech* a government organization which tries to get secret information about other countries. The British MI5 and the American CIA are secret services. **2** *AmE* a government department dealing with special kinds of police work, esp. protecting high government officials

secret so·ci·ety /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* a group of people who have come together for some common purpose (e.g. religious, magical, social, or political) which uses special secret words and signs and makes special promises and keeps its activities secret. One of these societies in Britain and the US is the FREEMASONS.

sect /sekt/ *n often derog* a small group of people with their own particular set of beliefs and practices, usu. within or separated from a larger esp. religious group: *a breakaway sect*

sec·tar·i·an /sekˈteəriən/ *adj usu. derog* of or between one or more sects, esp. as shown in great strength and narrowness of beliefs: *sectarian conflict/violence in Northern Ireland* —~**ism** *n* [U]

sec·tion[1] /ˈsekʃən/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a separate part of a larger object, place, group, etc.: *the business section of a city* | *Few politicians are liked by all* **sections of the community.** (=everyone) | *She plays in the orchestra's brass section.* (=those who play brass instruments) | *a bookcase which comes apart into sections* | *Signals control each section of the railway track.* | *the aircraft's tail section* | *My section of the office deals with record-keeping.* **2** [C] any of the equal parts into which some fruits, such as the orange, are naturally divided; SEGMENT **3** [C;U] a representation on paper of something as if it were cut either **a** from top to bottom and looked at from the side or **b** from one side to the other and looked at from the top: *The architect drew the house* **in section.** —compare ELEVATION (3), PLAN[1] (3); see also CROSS-SECTION **4** [C;U] *tech* (a) cutting by a doctor in an operation: *First the surgeon performed the section of the blood vessel.* (=cut it) **5** [C] (in MATHEMATICS) the figure formed by the points where a solid body is cut by a flat surface: *conic sections* **6** [C] a very thin flat piece cut from skin, a plant, etc., to be looked at under a microscope

section[2] *v* [T] *tech* **1** to cut or show a SECTION[1] (3,6) from **2** (of a doctor) to cut (a part of the body) in an operation

sec·tion·al /ˈsekʃənəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] made up of sections that can be put together or taken apart: *sectional furniture* **2** *often derog* limited to one particular group or area: *sectional interests that have a divisive effect within the party* (=small groups of people who try and get what they want rather than being loyal to the party as a whole) **3** [*no comp.*] of or based on a SECTION[1] (3): *a sectional view of the bands of rock in the earth*

sec·tion·al·is·m /ˈsekʃənəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *often derog* (too) great loyalty within only one section of a group

Section Eight /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n AmE* a dismissal from the US army for having an unsuitable character or being unfit for military work

sec·tor /ˈsektəʳ/ *n* **1** a part of a field of activity, esp. of business, trade, etc.: *employment in the public and private sectors* (=those controlled by the government, and by private business) | *the banking sector* | *the electronics sector* (=the companies that produce ELECTRONIC goods) **2** any of the parts into which an area is divided for the purpose of esp. military control: *the British sector in Berlin* **3** *tech* an area in a circle enclosed by two straight lines drawn from the centre to the edge —compare SEGMENT

sec·u·lar /ˈsekjʊləʳ/ *adj* **1** not connected with or controlled by a church; not religious: *secular music/education* **2** encouraging or practising secularism: *our modern secular society* **3** (of a priest) living among ordinary people (rather than as a MONK) —compare REGULAR[1] (11)

sec·u·lar·is·m /ˈsekjʊlərɪzəm/ *n* [U] a system of social organization which keeps out all forms of religion

sec·u·lar·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsekjʊləraɪz/ *v* [T] to make (more) secular, esp. by removing from the control or influence of the church

se·cure[1] /sɪˈkjʊəʳ/ *adj* **1** [(**from, against**)] safe; protected against danger or risk: *a secure stronghold* | *secure from attack* **2** closed, firm, or tight enough for safety: *Make the windows secure before leaving the house.* **3** sure to be won or not to be lost; certain: *His place in history is now secure.* | *Why do you want to be an actor? Why not get a secure job in the civil service?* **4** having no doubt, fear, or anxiety: *a secure family background* | *It may be some years before the new company can gain a secure foothold in the market.* | *He acted in the secure belief that he was right.* | *The little boy felt secure near his parents.* —opposite **insecure** (except 2) —~**ly** *adv* : *securely locked and bolted*

secure[2] *v* [T] **1** to hold or close tightly: *They secured the windows when the storm began.* **2** [(**from, against**)] to make safe: *Extra men are needed to secure the camp against attack.* | *new investment to secure the company's future* **3** [(**for**)] *fml* to get, esp. as the result of effort: *He's managed to secure the release of the hostages.* **4** to give a legal promise that (something) will be paid back: *a secured loan*

Se·cu·ri·cor /sɪˈkjʊərɪkɔːʳ/ a British company which takes money from shops, etc. in guarded vehicles to banks

Se·cu·ri·ta·te /sɪˌkjʊərɪˈtɑːteɪ/ [*the*] the Romanian secret police under Nicolae Ceaucescu

Securities and Ex·change Com·mis·sion /·ˌ··· · ·ˈ· ·ˌ··/ also **SEC**– [*the*] an American government organization which makes sure that people and companies obey the laws about the sale of STOCKS[1] (3) and BONDS[1] (3)

Securities and In·vest·ments Board /·ˌ··· · ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ also **SIB**– [*the*] a British organization responsible for controlling INVESTMENT businesses to prevent deceitful or dishonest behaviour

se·cu·ri·ty /sɪˈkjʊərɨti/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being secure: *Once the jewels were safely locked up in the bank he had no more anxieties about their security.* | *the security of a good home and loving family* **2** [U] **a** protection against lawbreaking, violence, enemy acts, escape from prison, etc.: *For security reasons the passengers have to be searched.* | *Strict security measures were in force during the President's visit.* | *The terrorists somehow slipped through the tight security net.* | *a* **maximum security** *prison* | *The* **security forces/services** (=police and army) *were unable to keep order in the streets.* | **Security guards** (=people employed to protect) *stood around the president.*| *in the interests of state/national security* | *an airport security check* **b** [+*sing./pl. v*] a department concerned with this: *I'll have to inform Security about this.* **3** [U **(from, against)**] something which protects or makes secure: *The money I've saved is my security against bad times in the future.* **4** [U] valuable property promised to a lender in case repayment is not made or other conditions are not met: *He got a big loan from the bank, but he had to put up his house as security.* –compare GUARANTEE[1] (3) **5** [C *usu. pl.*] an official piece of writing, esp. a BOND or piece of STOCK[1] (3), giving the owner the right to certain property: *There has been heavy trading in government securities.* –see also SOCIAL SECURITY

security blan·ket /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n esp. AmE* **1** a BLANKET, soft toy, etc. which a small child likes to hold, often while sucking his thumb, and without which he will cry **2** anything which is treated like a security blanket: *That pipe is my father's security blanket.* | *She carries that calculator everywhere, like a security blanket.*

security clear·ance /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* CLEARANCE (3)

Security Coun·cil /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*] a body within the United Nations whose member countries are concerned with peacekeeping

security guard /·ˈ·· ·/ *n* someone, usu. at the entrance to or inside a building, who looks out for people who might be trying to do something harmful or wrong, often checking people's bags as they arrive

security risk /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a person whose loyalty or ability to keep secrets is doubtful and who cannot be given certain government jobs

security ser·vice /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* a government organization which protects a country's secrets against enemy countries or protects the ruling group against attempts to remove it. MI5 in Britain and the CIA in the US are security services.

SED /ˌes iː ˈdiː/ [*the*] Scottish Education Department; a British government department responsible for education in Scotland –compare DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

se·dan /sɪˈdæn/ *n AmE & AustrE for* SALOON (1)

sedan chair /·ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* an enclosed seat carried on poles by two people, one in front and one behind, used in former times for carrying a person through the streets

se·date[1] /sɪˈdeɪt/ *adj* never showing hurry or excitement: *a sedate seaside town where a lot of old people live* | *to proceed at a sedate pace* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

sedate[2] *v* [T *often pass.*] to cause (esp. a person) to become sleepy or calm, esp. with a sedative

se·da·tion /sɪˈdeɪʃən/ *n* [U] (the causing of) a sleepy or calm state, esp. with a sedative: *She's been put* **under sedation** *and is resting quietly in bed.*

sed·a·tive /ˈsedətɪv/ *n, adj tech* (a drug) that lessens nervousness, excitement, or pain and often causes sleep: *Give the patient a sedative to help him sleep.* | *medicine with sedative effects*

sed·en·ta·ry /ˈsedəntəri‖-teri/ *adj* **1** *fml* done while sitting down, and not giving one the chance to move about much: *a sedentary job* **2** *tech* not moving from one place to another; settled: *a sedentary population*

sedge /sedʒ/ *n* [U] a grasslike plant with three-sided stems growing usu. in groups on low-lying wet ground –**sedgy** *adj*

sed·i·ment /ˈsedɨmənt/ *n* [S;U] solid material that settles at the bottom of a liquid: *(a) brownish sediment in the bottom of the wine bottle* | *a pipe blocked by sediment* – compare SLUDGE

sed·i·men·ta·ry /ˌsedɨˈmentəri◂/ *adj* made of material from the earth that has been moved around and then left in a place by water or ice: *sedimentary rock*

sed·i·men·ta·tion /ˌsedɨmenˈteɪʃən, -mən-/ *n* [U] the natural process by which bits of rock, earth, etc., are gathered, moved around, and then left in a place by water or ice

se·di·tion /sɪˈdɪʃən/ *n* [U] *esp. law* speaking, writing, or action intended to encourage people to disobey the government. In DEMOCRATIC countries where freedom of speech operates, this law is rarely used against people.

se·di·tious /sɪˈdɪʃəs/ *adj esp. law* causing or likely to cause sedition: *a seditious speech/speaker* –~**ly** *adv*

se·duce /sɪˈdjuːs‖-ˈduːs/ *v* [T] **1** to persuade (usu. someone younger and with less sexual experience) to have sex with one **2** [+*obj+adv/prep*] to cause or persuade (someone) to do something, esp. something unwise or rather bad; ENTICE: *He was seduced into leaving the company by the offer of higher pay elsewhere.* | *The warm weather seduced me away from my studies.* –**ducer** *n*

se·duc·tion /sɪˈdʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) seducing: *the seduction scene in Act Two of the opera* **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a thing or quality that attracts by its charm

se·duc·tive /sɪˈdʌktɪv/ *adj* very desirable or attractive; hard to refuse, esp. sexually: *her seductive voice* | *a seductive offer of higher pay* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

sed·u·lous /ˈsedjʊləs‖ˈsedʒə-/ *adj fml apprec* showing careful attention, effort, and determination; ASSIDUOUS: *a sedulous worker* –~**ly** *adv*

see[1] /siː/ *v* **saw** /sɔː/, **seen** /siːn/ **1** [I *not in progressive forms*] to use the eyes; have or use the power of sight: *He doesn't see very well with/in his right eye.* | *It was so dark I could hardly see (to do my work).* | (fig.) *She claims to* **see into the future.** (=know what is going to happen) **2** [T *not in progressive forms*] to get sight of; notice, examine, or recognize by looking: *I looked for her, but I couldn't see her in the crowd.* | *Can you see what's going on over there?* | *Let me see your ticket, please.* | *For more information, see* (=look at) *page 153.* [+(*that*)] *I could see that they'd been crying.* [+*wh-*] *Can you see where I put my glasses?* [+*obj+to-v/v-ing*] *I saw him leave the house/saw him leaving the house.* [+*obj+to-v; pass.*] (*fml*) *The dark-haired man was seen to leave the house.* | *It's not enough to make promises – they must be seen to be doing something about the problem.* [+*obj+v-ed*] *He saw his own brother murdered by the terrorists.* | *I'll have to change my clothes before we go out – I don't want to be seen like this!* **3** [T *not in progressive forms*] to have experience of; UNDERGO: *You and I have seen some good times together.* | *This old house has* **seen better days.** (=is in bad condition) | *During the war he saw service in the Far East.* **4** [T *not in progressive forms*] to understand or learn by looking, through experience, etc.; come to know: *It took me a while to see the truth of her remarks.* | *Seeing his confusion, I offered to help.* [+*that*] *I'm glad to see that you're enjoying your work.* | *I see in the paper (that) the government have done badly in the local elections.* [+*wh-*] *It'll be interesting to see how he reacts to this.* | *"I'm afraid I'm a bit late." "So I see."* **5** [I;T *not in progressive forms*] to recognize the meaning, purpose, or importance of; understand: *"Do you see what I mean?" "Yes; now I see."* | *She laughed politely even though she didn't* **see the joke.**| *I can't* **see the point** *of learning Latin if you're never going to use it.* | *She thinks it's too risky, and I must admit I can* **see her point.** (=I understand why she thinks that) | *I've tried to explain that we haven't got the money to do it, but he just won't* **see reason.** (=accept that what I say is right) [+*wh-*] *I can't see why she's so against the idea.* [+(*that*)] *The recipe says use cream, but I can't see that it matters.* (=I don't think it does matter) **6** [T+*obj+adv/prep; not in progressive forms*] to regard or consider in a particular way: *She sees this incident as further proof of his incompetence.* (=thinks that it is further proof of this) | *As I see it* (=according to my view of the situation), *the blame lies with the driver.* | *How do you see the current situation in the Middle East?* (=what is your

judgment of it?) | *He sees things differently now that he's joined the management.* | *You must do whatever you* **see fit.** (=consider right or sensible) **7** [T **(as)** *not in progressive forms*] to form a picture of (something or someone) in the mind; imagine; VISUALIZE: *I can't see her as* (=don't think it probable that she will become) *a ballet dancer.* | *I see little hope of any improvement.* | *I can see a great future for you in music.* | *He kept telling me how useful his new invention would be, but I couldn't see it myself.* (=it did not seem to me that it would be useful) [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *I can't see her lending me any money.* (=I am sure she will not) **8** [I;T+*wh-*;~~*obj*~~] to (try to) find out: *I'm not sure if I can lend you that much money: I'll have to see.* (=I'll decide later) | *"Can we go to the zoo, dad?" "We'll see."* (=perhaps, but perhaps not) | *I'll see what I can do|see what the trouble is.* | *If you can hang on for a moment, I'll see if she's in.* | *Let's see if we can* (=let's try to) *do it a bit better this time.* **9** [T+(*that*);~~*obj*~~;*not in progressive forms*] to make sure; take care: *See you're ready at 8 o'clock.* | *I promise to see that the job is done on time.* **10** [T] to visit, meet, or receive as a visitor: *The doctor can't see you yet: he's seeing someone else at the moment.* | *We're going to see grandma in hospital tomorrow.* | **"See you later,** *Pete."* *"Yes,* **see you|be seeing you."** (=goodbye) **11** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to go with; ACCOMPANY: *Someone ought to see the children safely home.* | *I'll see you to the door.* **12** [T] (of a place or period) to have (an event or set of events) happen in or during it: *The fifth century saw the end of the Roman Empire in the West.* (=that was when it ended) | *This year has seen a big increase in road accidents.* **13** [T] (in the card game of POKER) to answer (an opponent) by risking an equal amount of money **14 let me see** (used to express a pause for thought): *"Do you recognize this music?" "Let me see ... Yes, now I do."* **15 not see beyond the end of one's nose** *infml* to think that one's own affairs are the only ones that matter **16 not see someone for dust** *BrE infml* to be unable to see someone because they have left in a great hurry: *If he hears there's work to be done, you won't see him for dust!* **17 not see the wood** *BrE*‖**forest** *AmE* **for the trees** *infml* to fail to understand something clearly or completely because of giving too much attention to small details **18 see eye to eye (with)** to agree completely (with); have the same opinion (as): *He and his brother always see eye to eye.* **19 Seeing is believing** *infml* (used for expressing disbelief in something that cannot be believed until one has actually seen it) **20 see one's way (clear) to** *esp. BrE* to be able or willing to (esp. lend money): *I was wondering if you could see your way to lending me £50.* **21 see red** to become very angry **22 see someone right** *old-fash infml* to make sure that someone is properly rewarded **23 see stars** to see flashes of light, esp. as the result of being hit on the head **24 see the back/last of** *infml* to have no further association with (something or someone), esp. because it has finished or because they have gone: *I haven't enjoyed dealing with this company and I'll be glad to see the back of them!* **25 see the colour of someone's money** *infml* to be shown proof that someone is willing or able to pay **26 see the light: a** to understand or accept an idea or the truth of something **b** to have a religious experience which changes one's belief **c** *infml* to come into existence: *This suggestion first* **saw the light (of day)** *as early as 1935.* **27 see things** *infml* to think that one sees something when there is nothing there: *I must be seeing things* (=I cannot believe what I have seen)*; they can't have bought another new car!* —see also **hear things** (HEAR) **28 you see: a** (used in explanations) *"Why are you so late?" "Well, you see, the bus broke down."* **b** (used for softening a following statement): *You see; there's another side to what you've been saying ...*

▷ USAGE 1 Compare **see, look at,** and **watch.** To **see** is to experience with the eyes, and it does not depend on what you want to do. In this meaning, you say *Can you* **see** *anything?* but not *Are you* **seeing** *anything*? When you use your eyes on purpose and with attention you **look at** something: *Stop* **looking at** *me like that!* To **watch** is to look for some time at something that may move: you **watch** television or a football match. 2 Compare *I* **saw** *him cross the road* (=I saw the whole journey from one side to the other) and *I* **saw** *him crossing the road* (=I saw him at a moment when he was in the middle). **Feel, hear,** and **watch** can also be used in these two ways. —see also CAN (USAGE)◁

see about sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to make arrangements for; deal with: [+*obj|v-ing*] *It's time for me to see about dinner|to see about cooking dinner.* **2** to consider further: *"Dad, will you take us to the football match tomorrow?" "Well, I'll (have to) see about that."* (=perhaps I will take you) **3 We'll (soon) see about 'that!** *infml* I will prevent that from happening or continuing!

see sthg. **in** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *usu. in questions and negatives*] to find attractive in: *I don't know why she married that awful man; I can't think what she sees in him.*

see sthg. **of** sbdy. *phr v* [T] to see or be with (someone) to the stated degree: *Where's Dave? I've seen nothing of him* (=have not seen him) *all week.* | *They're good friends and see a lot of each other.* (=are together a lot)

see sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** [**(at)**] to go to an airport, station, etc., with (someone who is beginning a journey): *He saw his friend off at the bus station.* **2 a** to chase away: *Her dog saw off the two thieves.* **b** to remain firm and undefeated until (something or someone dangerous) stops being active: *Our troops saw off three enemy attacks within three days.*

see sbdy./sthg. **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to last until the end of: *Will our supplies see the winter out?* **2** to go to the door with (someone who is leaving): *Don't worry; I'll see myself out.* (=so you need not do so)

see round/over sthg. *phr v* [T] to visit and examine: *Would you like to see round the old castle?*

see through *phr v* [T] **1 (see through** sthg./sbdy.) to recognize the truth about (an excuse, false statement, deceiving person, etc.); not be deceived by: *She knew him well enough to see through his laughter and realize he was upset about what had happened.* **2 (see** sbdy. **through** (sthg.)) to provide things for, support, or help until the end of (a time or difficulty): *He had just enough money to see him through (a year abroad).*

see to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to deal with or take care of: *You ought to have your eyes seen to by a doctor.* | *Will you see to the children?* | *Will you* **see to it that** (=make sure that) *this letter gets posted today?*

see[2] *n* the area governed by a BISHOP; DIOCESE —see also HOLY SEE

seed[1] /siːd/ *n* **1** [C;U] a usu. small hard object produced by most plants, from which a new plant of the same kind can grow, and which is used for planting: *poppy seeds* | *a large bag of grass seed* | *a seedpod* | (fig.) *The government's repressive policies are* **sowing the seeds of** (=may lead to) *rebellion.* | (fig.) *His reaction planted the seeds of doubt in her mind.* —see picture at FRUIT **2** [C] *AmE for* PIP[1] **3** [C] a seeded (SEED[2] (5)) player in a competition: *the top seed at Wimbledon* **4** [U] *bibl* everyone who is descended from a particular person, esp. considered as forming a particular race: *According to the Bible we are all the seed of Adam.* **5 go/run to seed: a** (of a plant) to produce seed, having passed the time when flowers are produced **b** *infml* (of a person) to become unattractive and unhealthy-looking, esp. by becoming lazy, careless, or old —~**less** *adj* : *a seedless orange*

seed[2] *v* **1** [I] (of a plant) to produce seeds **2** [T **(with)** *often pass.*] to plant seeds in (a piece of ground) **3** [T] to remove seeds from (fruit) **4** [T **(with)**] to cause to be filled or scattered with something that develops or produces a result: *We seeded the clouds with chemicals to make them produce rain.* —see also CLOUD SEEDING **5** [T *usu. pass.*] to place (esp. a tennis player at the start of a competition) in order of likelihood to win: *seeded players* | *She was seeded fourth at Wimbledon.* (=was officially considered the fourth best player) —see also UNSEEDED

seed[3] *adj* [A] kept for planting: *seed potatoes|corn*

seed·bed /ˈsiːdbed/ *n* **1** an area of ground, esp. specially prepared, where seeds are planted **2** [**(of)**] a place or condition favourable for development, esp. of something bad: *the city's slums were a seedbed of rebellion*

seed·corn /ˈsiːdkɔːn‖-kɔːrn/ *n* [U] **1** corn of good quality that is used for planting **2** something that is of great value because it can be used for future developments

seed·ling /ˈsiːdlɪŋ/ *n* a young plant grown from a seed and not from a part cut off another plant

seed pearl /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a very small and often imperfect PEARL —see also PEARL

seeds·man /ˈsiːdzmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a grower and seller of seeds, esp. for flowers and vegetables

seed·y /ˈsiːdi/ *adj infml* **1** *derog* having a poor, dirty,

uncared for, worn-out appearance: *a rather seedy and unpleasant part of town* **2** *old-fash infml* slightly unwell and/or in low spirits: *I've been feeling a bit seedy for the last couple of days.* —**-iness** *n* [U]

See·ger /ˈsiːgəʳ/, **Pete** /piːt/ (1919–) American singer and writer of FOLK² songs (= songs about ordinary people) and a person with special knowledge of on BANJO and GUITAR who made folk music popular again in the 1950s

see·ing /ˈsiːɪŋ/ also **seeing that** /ˈ·· ·/, **seeing as** *infml*, **seeing as how** /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *nonstandard– conj* as it is true that; considering the fact that; SINCE³ (2): *Seeing (that) she's legally old enough to get married, I don't see how you can stop her.*

seeing eye dog /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ·/ *AmE for* GUIDE DOG

seek /siːk/ *v* **sought** /sɔːt/ **1** [I (**after, for**);T (OUT)] *fml or lit* to make a search (for); try to find or get (something): *We are earnestly seeking after the truth.* | *The travellers sought shelter from the rain.* | *Will the president seek re-election at the end of his term of office?* | *He sought out his friend in the crowd.* **2** [T] *fml* to ask for; go to request: *You should seek advice from your lawyer on this matter.* **3** [T+*to-v*;~~*obj*~~] *fml or lit* to try; make an attempt: *The company is seeking to improve its profitability.* **4** [T] to move naturally towards: *Water seeks its own level.* | *The compass pointer always seeks the north.* **5 seek one's fortune/seek fame and fortune** *esp. lit* to try to find success in the world: *He left home to seek his fortune.* | *He majored in political science before seeking fame and fortune in New York.* **6 they seek him here, they seek him there** *quote* the first words of a short poem about the Scarlet Pimpernel, a character in a book of the same name who helped people escape from the French Revolution, and who the French government tried unsuccessfully to catch **7 seek, and ye shall find** *saying from the Bible* people who look for something long or thoroughly enough will find it —see also HIDE-AND-SEEK, SELF SEEKING, SOUGHT-AFTER — **~er** *n*

seem /siːm/ *v* [L *not in progressive forms*] to give the idea or effect of being; be in appearance; appear: *The strong wind makes the temperature seem lower than it really is.* | *She didn't seem convinced by the argument.* | *There seems (to be) every reason to believe that business will get better.* | *Things are not always what they seem (to be).* | *You must do whatever seems right to you.* | *It seems like years since I last saw you.* | *"It seems (as if) there will be an election soon." "So it seems."* [+*to-v*] *I seem to have lost my keys.* [+(*that*)] *It seems/(fml) It would seem that there is no way out of our difficulty.*

seem·ing /ˈsiːmɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *fml* that seems to be so, usu. as opposed to what is; APPARENT: *For all his seeming calmness, he was really very nervous.* | *an explanation of the seeming contradictions*

seem·ing·ly /ˈsiːmɪŋli/ *adv* **1** judging by the facts as one knows them: *There is seemingly nothing we can do to stop the plan going ahead.* **2** according to outward appearance, usu. as opposed to what is actually the case: *seemingly endless problems*

seem·ly /ˈsiːmli/ *adj old-fash or lit* (esp. of behaviour) pleasing by being suitable to an occasion or to social standards —**-liness** *n* [U]

seen /siːn/ *past participle of* SEE¹

seep /siːp/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] (of a liquid or gas) to make its way gradually through small openings in a material: *Water had seeped into the house through cracks in the roof.* | *Blood seeped through the bandage.*

seep·age /ˈsiːpɪdʒ/ *n* [S;U] (a) gradual flow of a liquid by seeping: *flooding caused by seepage from the drains*

seer /sɪəʳ/ *n lit & old use* someone who can see into the future and tell what will happen; PROPHET. Seers were thought of as wise men.

seer·suck·er /ˈsɪəˌsʌkəʳ‖ˈsɪər-/ *n* [U] a light usu. cotton cloth with flat bands between slightly raised bands

see·saw¹ /ˈsiːsɔː/ ‖ also **teeter-totter** *AmE– n* a board which is balanced in the middle and on which children sit at opposite ends, so that when one end goes up the other goes down

seesaw² *v* [I] to move backwards and forwards, up and down, or between opponents or opposite sides: *The fight seesawed to and fro, with first one boxer and then the other being on top.* | *seesawing prices*

seethe /siːð/ *v* [I] **1** [(**with**)] to be in a state of anger, unrest, or excited movement: *The country was seething with political unrest.* | *a seething mass of people* | *I was absolutely seething, I can tell you.* (=extremely angry) **2** (of a liquid) to move about wildly and roughly, as if boiling: *The sea was seething around the rocks.*

see-through /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] (esp. of a garment) that can be (partly) seen through; transparent: *a see-through blouse*

SEGA /ˈseɪgə/ a Japanese company making computer games

seg·ment¹ /ˈsegmənt/ *n* **1** any of the parts into which something can be cut or divided: *a dish of orange segments* | *The company dominates this segment of the market.* —see pictures at FRUIT and PIECE **2** *tech* an area inside a circle between its edge and a CHORD (=a straight line across it) —compare SECTOR **3** *tech* the part of a line between two points on the line

seg·ment² /segˈment/ *v* [I;T] to divide or be divided into segments

seg·men·ta·tion /ˌsegmenˈteɪʃən, -mən-/ *n* [S;U] division into segments

seg·re·gate /ˈsegrɪgeɪt/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to separate or set apart, esp. from a different social group: *Boys and girls are segregated in this school.*

seg·re·gat·ed /ˈsegrɪgeɪtɨd/ *adj* for the use of only one group, esp. a racial group

seg·re·ga·tion /ˌsegrɪˈgeɪʃən/ *n* [U] the separation of a social or racial group from others, esp. by the laws in some US states between 1896 and 1954, which prevented black people from using the same schools, hotels, restaurants, seats in buses and in theatres and parks, etc., as white people

▷ USAGE The opposite of segregation is **integration**; however, **desegregation** is usu. used when someone is referring to **reversing** (=getting rid of) a system of segregation already in place, as in the US after 1954. —compare APARTHEID; see also BROWN vs BOARD, CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, PLESSY vs FERGUSON◁

sei·gneur /seˈnjɜːʳ‖seɪ-/ *n* (in a FEUDAL system) a nobleman or landowner; lord

Seiko /ˈseɪkəʊ/ *tdmk* a product, esp. a watch, made by the Japanese company Seiko

seine /seɪn/ also **seine net** /ˈ· ·/– *n* a fishing net with weights along one edge causing it to hang straight down and enclose fish when the ends are drawn together

Seine *n* [*the*] a river, 780 km (480 miles) long, in N France. It flows through Paris and Rouen and into the English Channel coast near Le Havre.

seis·mic /ˈsaɪzmɪk/ *adj tech* of or caused by EARTHQUAKES

seismic wave /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a movement in the earth, caused by an EARTHQUAKE, a very large explosion, or a very large object hitting the earth from space

seis·mo·graph /ˈsaɪzməgrɑːf‖-græf/ *n* an instrument for recording and measuring the shaking of the ground in an EARTHQUAKE

seis·mol·o·gy /saɪzˈmɒlədʒi‖-ˈmɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the scientific study of shaking movements in the surface of the earth —**-gist** *n*

seize /siːz/ *v* [T] **1** to take possession of **a** by official order: *The weapons found in the house were seized by the police.* **b** by force: *The army seized power in a coup.* **2** to take hold of eagerly, quickly, or forcefully; GRAB: *He seized my hand, shook it, and said how glad he was to see me.* | (fig.) *If you get the opportunity to work abroad, you should seize it with both hands.* **3** [*often pass.* (**with**)] (of feelings or thoughts) to attack or take control of (someone's body or mind): *He was seized with sudden chest pains/with a desire for revenge.* **4 seize the day** to not delay in doing something, esp. something enjoyable. The phrase comes from the Latin *carpe diem*, mentioned in a poem by Horace.

seize on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to take and use suddenly or eagerly: *She had always wanted to go to London, so she seized on the offer of a free trip.*

seize up *phr v* [I] (of (part of) a machine) to become stuck and fail to move or work; JAM² (5): *The engine seized up.* | (fig.) *The snowstorm was so heavy that the city's whole transport system seized up.*

sei·zure /ˈsiːʒəʳ/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] the act of seizing: *The courts ordered the seizure of all her property.* **2** [C] a sudden attack of an illness: *He died of a heart seizure.* | (fig.) (*humor*) *Your mother will have a seizure if you dye your hair pink!*

Selassie see HAILE SELASSIE

sel·dom /ˈseldəm/ *adv* not often; rarely: *He very seldom* (=hardly ever) *eats breakfast.* | *She seldom, if ever, reads a book.* (=She reads rarely, or perhaps not at all.) —see NEVER (USAGE), RARELY (USAGE)

se·lect[1] /sɪˈlekt/ *v* [T (**for, from**)] *rather fml* to take as best, most suitable, etc., from a group; choose: *She selected a diamond ring from the collection.* | *These oranges have been carefully selected.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *He was selected to play for England.*

select[2] *adj fml apprec* **1** carefully chosen and limited to a small number of the highest quality: *A select group were invited to the wedding reception.* **2** limited to the use of people of high social class or great wealth; EXCLUSIVE: *This is a very select area; you have to be rich to live here.*

select com·mit·tee /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a committee of the British parliament that is appointed for a certain length of time to consider a particular matter, such as defence, trade, employment, etc. **2** a committee of the US Congress which is established to examine one subject or suggested new law only for a limited time: *Both the Senate and the House created select committees to examine the Iran-Contra affair.* —compare STANDING COMMITTEE

se·lec·tion /sɪˈlekʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of selecting or the fact of being selected: *His selection as a presidential candidate was quite unexpected.* **2** [C (**from**)] something or someone selected: *The orchestra played selections from Gilbert and Sullivan.* **3** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] a collection of things of one kind, such as goods for sale; range: *The shop has a fine selection of cheeses.* —see also NATURAL SELECTION

se·lec·tive /sɪˈlektɪv/ *adj* **1** careful in choosing: *He's always very selective when he buys his suits.* **2** having an effect only on certain things; not general: *You need a selective weed killer that won't damage your garden flowers.* | *selective strike action* —**~ly** *adv* : *They quoted from the report selectively in order to support their argument.* —**~ness** *n* [U] —**-tivity** /sɪˌlekˈtɪvəti/,

se·lec·tor /sɪˈlektəʳ/ *n* a person or instrument that selects, esp. a member of a committee choosing a sports team

se·le·ni·um /sɪˈliːniəm/ *n* [U] a poisonous ELEMENT (=a simple substance) that is not a metal and is used esp. in light-sensitive electrical instruments and as a colouring material

self /self/ *n* **selves** /selvz/ **1** [C;U] the whole being of a person, taking into account their nature, character, abilities, etc.: *He put his whole self into the job, working night and day.* | *Knowledge of self increases as one gets older.* **2** [C] a particular or typical part of one's nature: *I'm feeling better but I'm still not quite my old self.* (=as I was before my illness) | *Under a stressful cross-examination they began to reveal their true selves.* | *her better self* (=the best part of her nature) **3** [U] one's own advantage or profit: *She always thinks of others, never of self.* | *It's always the same with him—self, self, self.* (=he is SELFISH) **4** [U] (used in esp. business writing) himself/herself; oneself

self- see WORD FORMATION

self-ab·ne·ga·tion /ˌ· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] ABNEGATION

self-ab·sorbed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* paying all one's attention to oneself and one's own affairs —**-sorption** *n* [U]

self-act·ing /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* working by itself; AUTOMATIC

self-ad·dressed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* addressed for return to the sender: *Please enclose a self-addressed envelope with your order.* —see also S.A.E.

self-ad·he·sive /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* (of e.g. an envelope) having a sticky surface so that it does not need liquid or glue to fix it closed or fix it to something else

self-ap·point·ed /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj usu. derog* chosen by oneself for a job or position, unasked and usu. unwanted: *Why should this self-appointed guardian of public morals say what we can and cannot watch on television?*

self-as·sem·bly /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* (that can be) put together by oneself from parts bought in a shop: *self-assembly furniture*

self-as·ser·tive /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* forceful in making others take notice of oneself or in claiming things for oneself —**~ness, -tion**— *n* [U]

self-as·sured /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* sure of one's own abilities; confident —**-surance** *n* [U]

self-ca·ter·ing /ˌ· ˈ···/ *adj esp. BrE* (of a holiday or holiday lodging) in which one cooks one's own meals

self-cen·tred /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* interested only in oneself; SELFISH —**~ness** *n* [U]

self-col·lect·ed /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* SELF-POSSESSED

self-com·mand /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] *fml for* SELF-CONTROL

self-com·posed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* having one's emotions under control; calm

self-con·fessed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] admitted by oneself to be the stated usu. bad kind of person: *a self-confessed liar* —see also CONFESSED

self-con·fi·dent /ˌ· ˈ···/ *adj usu. apprec* sure of one's own power to succeed: *You couldn't help admiring the self-confident way she stood up to speak to the big crowd.* —**~ly** *adv* —**-dence** *n* [U]

self-con·grat·u·la·tion /ˌ· ···ˈ··/ *n* [U] *usu derog* giving oneself (too) much recognition for one's good fortune or achievements: *an orgy of self-congratulation* **self-congratulatory** *adj* : *a smug, self-congratulatory smile*

self-con·scious /ˌ· ˈ··/ *adj* **1** nervous and uncomfortable about oneself as seen by others: *I could never be an actor; I'm too self-conscious.* | *The young girl felt very self-conscious about the large spot on her chin.* **2** having or expressing knowledge or understanding about oneself or itself; CONSCIOUS: *I found the film's artistic camerawork rather too self-conscious.* (=it did not seem natural or effortless) —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

self-con·tained /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** complete in itself; independent: *a self-contained flat with its own entrance, kitchen, bathroom, etc.* **2** (of a person) habitually not showing feelings or depending on others' friendship

self-con·tra·dic·to·ry /ˌ· ··ˈ···/ *adj* containing two opposite parts or statements which cannot both be true

self-con·trol /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] control over one's feelings; power to hold back the expression of strong feelings: *I must admit I nearly lost my self-control and hit him.* —**-trolled** *adj*

self-de·cep·tion /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* the act of deceiving oneself; the state of being deceived by oneself (e.g. about one's reasons or character) **self-deceptive** *adj*

self-de·feat·ing /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* having the effect of preventing its own success: *Their attempt to prevent opposition by closing down the newspapers was self-defeating—the opposition only increased.*

self-de·fence /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] the act or skill of defending oneself, one's actions, one's rights, etc. Self-defence classes for women have become popular in recent years because of the number of attacks on women: *the art of self-defence* (=BOXING, JUDO, etc.) | *He shot the man* **in self-defence.** (=only to protect himself)

self-de·ni·al /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] *fml* the act or habit of holding oneself back from doing enjoyable things or of not satisfying one's own desires, usu. done for religious or moral reasons —**-nying** *adj*

self-des·truct /ˌself dɪˈstrʌkt/ *v* [I] *esp. AmE* to destroy itself: *If the missile malfunctions, it will self-destruct.* —**self-destruct** *adj* [A] : *a self-destruct mechanism*

self-des·truc·tion /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] destroying oneself or itself —**-tive** *adj* : *a self-destructive tendency to see herself as a failure*

self-de·ter·min·a·tion /ˌ· ···ˈ··/ *n* [U] the right of the people who live in a country to make a free decision about the form of their government, esp. whether or not to be independent of another country

self-dis·ci·pline /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the training of oneself to control one's habits, actions, and desires: *You'll need plenty of self-discipline if you're going to work from home.* —**-plined** *adj*

self-doubt /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] lack of belief in oneself and one's abilities

self-drive /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj BrE* (of a vehicle) that can be or has been hired to be driven by oneself

self-ed·u·cat·ed /ˌ· ˈ····◂/ *adj* educated by one's own efforts, esp. by reading books, and not formally in school

self-ef·fac·ing /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* keeping oneself from attracting attention, esp. because one lacks confidence: *a shy self-effacing man* —**facement** *n* [U]

self-em·ployed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* earning money from one's own

business rather than being paid by an employer: [also *n, the*+P] *a special pension scheme for the self-employed* —**-ployment** *n* [U]

self-es·teem /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] one's good opinion of one's own worth: *The critical newspaper reviews damaged|were a blow to his self-esteem.*

self-ev·i·dent /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* plainly true without need of proof; clear from the statement itself: *It's self-evident she won't pass, so why are they entering her for the exam?* —**~ly** *adv*

self-ex·am·in·a·tion /ˌ· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] consideration of one's own actions and reasons for action, esp. to judge them according to some standards, religious beliefs, etc.

self-ex·plan·a·to·ry /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *adj* (esp. of speaking or writing) explaining itself; easily understood and needing no further explanation: *I think the printed instructions are fairly self-explanatory, so I'll let you get on with it.*

self-ex·pres·sion /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] the expression of one's own character e.g. in artistic form, through one's behaviour —**self-expressive** *adj*

self-ful·fill·ing proph·e·cy /ˌ· ·ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a statement about what may happen in the future which comes true because it has been made: *The vice-president made a self-fulfilling prophecy when he said the company would soon go bankrupt – now all the investors are withdrawing their money.*

self-gov·ern·ing /ˌ· ˈ···◂/ *adj* (of a country or organization) free from outside control; independent: *Instead of being controlled by a Regional Health Authority, each hospital should be a* **self-governing trust**.

self-gov·ern·ment /ˌ· ˈ···/ also **self-rule**– *n* [U] government of a country by its own people, free from outside control or influence; independence

self-help /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the action of providing help or support for oneself without depending on others: *self-help groups* (=in which you give and get help, and help yourself) *for drug addicts|dieters*

self·hood /ˈselfhʊd/ *n* [U] the knowledge of oneself as an independent person; the sense of one's INDIVIDUALITY

self-im·age /ˌ· ˈ··/ the idea one has of one's own personality, looks, or mental ability: *Children who are bullies often have a poor self-image and try to make themselves feel better by punishing other children.*

self-im·port·ance /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] too high an opinion of one's own importance —**-ant** *adj* : *a self-important little man who enjoys telling other people what to do* —**-antly** *adv*

self-im·posed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* that one has forced oneself to accept, without it being suggested or demanded by anyone else: *a self-imposed limit of three cigarettes a day | self-imposed exile*

self-in·dul·gence /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] the tendency to allow oneself pleasure or comfort too easily —**-gent** *adj* : *I know it's very self-indulgent of me, but I'm going to have another piece of cake. | a self-indulgent film* (=in which the director has concerned himself too much with his own particular feelings or interests) —**-gently** *adv*

self-in·terest /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] concern for what is best for oneself or is most to one's own advantage: *Self-interest, rather than compassion, prompted his large donation to the charity, which he knew would be reported in the press.* —**~ed** *adj*

self·ish /ˈselfɪʃ/ *adj* concerned with or directed towards one's own advantage without care for others: *What a selfish boy you are; let the other children share your toys. | She acted from purely selfish motives.* —opposite **unselfish** —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

self-knowl·edge /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] knowledge of one's own nature and character, the reasons why one does things, etc.

self·less /ˈselfləs/ *adj apprec* caring only for others and not for oneself; completely unselfish: *selfless devotion to duty* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

self-lock·ing /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* (esp. of a door) locking by its own action when closed

self-made /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having gained success and esp. wealth by one's own efforts alone, starting without money or social position: *He's very proud of being a* **self-made man.**

self-pit·y /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] too much pity for one's own sorrows or troubles: *Instead of* **wallowing in self-pity** *they should do something positive to improve their situation.* —**~ing** *adj*

self-por·trait /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** an artist's work of him/herself **2** a spoken or written description of one's own character

self-pos·sessed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* showing self-possession; calm and confident —**~ly** /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *adv*

self-pos·ses·sion /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] firm control over one's own feelings and actions, esp. in difficult or unexpected situations

self-pres·er·va·tion /ˌ· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] the keeping of oneself safe from harm or death, esp. as an action done naturally by living things: *Animals have an instinct for self-preservation.*

self-pro·claimed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* called by oneself and usu. unsupported by others: *self-proclaimed leader|hero*

self-rais·ing flour /ˌ· ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **self-rising flour** *AmE*– *n* [U] flour that contains BAKING POWDER —compare PLAIN FLOUR

self-re·li·ant /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* able to act without depending on the help of others: *Even though she's in her nineties, the old lady is still very self-reliant.* —**-ance** *n* [U]

self-re·spect /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] proper respect for, or pride in, oneself; DIGNITY: *She's got too much self-respect to beg her boyfriend to stay.*

self-re·spect·ing /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A *usu. in negatives*] **1** having self-respect: *No self-respecting actor would appear in a pornographic film.* **2** *infml* properly so-called; real; true: *No self-respecting town would be without its cinema in those days.*

self-re·straint /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] the ability to keep the expression of one's feelings, or one's desires under control: *Why can't you exercise some self-restraint?*

Sel·fri·dges /ˈselfrɪdʒɨz/ [+*sing.*/*pl. v*] a large department store in Oxford Street, London, famous esp. for its food department: *Has|Have Selfridges got a furniture department?*

self-right·eous /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj derog* proudly sure of one's own rightness or goodness, esp. in opposition to the beliefs and actions of others —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

self-ris·ing flour /ˌ· ·· ˈ·/ *n AmE for* SELF-RAISING FLOUR

self-rule /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] SELF-GOVERNMENT

self-sac·ri·fice /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the giving up of things that one cares deeply about in order to help others or for some good or important purpose —**-ficing** *adj*

self-same /ˈselfseɪm/ *adj* [*the, this, that, these, those*+A] *lit* exactly the same: *two great victories on the self-same day*

self-sat·is·fied /ˌ· ˈ···/ *adj* too pleased with oneself; COMPLACENT: *a smug self-satisfied smirk.* —**-faction** /ˌ· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U]

self-seek·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* someone who is concerned only with their own advantage

self-seek·ing /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* doing things only for one's own advantage: *a dishonourable self-seeking politician* —**self-seeking** *n* [U]

self-serv·ice /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* using a system by which buyers collect what they want and then pay at a special desk: *a self-service cafeteria|petrol station* —**self-service** *n* [U]

self-start·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** (a button which one presses to start) a usu. electric apparatus for starting a car engine **2** *infml* an active and effective person who is able to work on their own: *PA wanted for busy office. Must be self-starter.*

self-styled /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *usu. derog* given the stated title by oneself, usu. without any right to it: *The self-styled saviour of his people is in fact a dictator.*

self-suf·fi·cient /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* [(**in**)] able to provide what one needs without outside help, esp. (of a country) without buying goods and services from abroad: *Britain is now self-sufficient in oil.* —**-ciency** *n* [U]

self-sup·port·ing /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* earning enough money to pay its/one's costs without getting into debt or needing money from outside: *We're hoping that this business will become self-supporting in one or two years.*

self-will /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] strong unreasonable determination to follow one's own wishes, esp. in opposition to others —**-willed** /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj*

self-wind·ing /ˌself ˈwaɪndɪŋ/ *adj* (of a wristwatch) winding itself as a result of the natural movement of the human arm

Sel·kirk·shire /ˈselkɜːkʃəʳ‖-ɜːr-/ a former COUNTY of SE Scotland, now part of the Borders REGION

sell[1] /sel/ *v* **sold** /səʊld/ **1** [I;T **(for, to)**] to give or pass (property or goods) to someone else in exchange for money: *I'd like to buy your house if you're willing to sell.| I'm thinking of selling my car.* | (fig.) *These unprincipled voters are willing to sell their votes.* (=vote for whoever will pay or give them most) [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I sold him the painting|sold the painting to him for £5,000.| The painting was sold to an American buyer.* —compare BUY **2** [T] to help or cause (something) to be bought: *Bad news sells newspapers.* | *The famous author's name on the cover is enough to sell the book.* **3** [T] to offer (goods) for sale: *My job is selling insurance.* | *Do you sell cigarettes in this shop?* **4** [I **(at, for)**] to be bought; get a buyer or buyers: *This magazine sells for|at* (=costs) *£1.50.* | *The concert tickets cost too much and sold badly|didn't sell.* **5** [T] to gain a sale of; be bought in (the stated quantity): *This record has sold over a million copies.* **6** [T **(to, on)**] *infml* to make (something) acceptable, believable, or desirable to (someone) by persuading: *Will they be able to sell their ideas to the voters?* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Can you sell the boss your plan?* | *You've sold me on joining the squash league.* | *I'm completely sold on the idea; I think it's a brilliant suggestion.* **7** [T *usu. pass.*] *infml rare* to trick; cheat; deceive: *We've been sold!* **8 sell oneself: a** to make oneself or one's ideas seem attractive to others: *I'm no good at job interviews – I just don't know how to sell myself.* **b** to give up one's principles in exchange for money or other gain **9 sell one's soul (to the devil)** to act dishonourably in exchange for money, power, fame, etc. **10 sell someone a pup** *BrE old-fash infml* to trick someone into buying something worthless **11 sell someone down the river** to put someone in great trouble by being disloyal to them; BETRAY someone **12 sell something/someone short** to value something or someone too low: *When you say John is inefficient, I think you're selling him short.*

sell sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to get rid of (goods) by selling, usu. cheaply: *We're selling off these tins of fruit at reduced prices because they're slightly damaged.*

sell out *phr v* **1 a** [I **(of)**;T (=**sell** sthg. **out**) *pass.*] to sell all of (what was for sale): *I'm afraid we have completely sold out (of shirts in your size), sir.* | *Sorry, the tickets are sold out.* | *The match was completely sold out.* (=there were no tickets left) **b** [I] (of something for sale) to be all bought: *The shirts were cheap and sold out fast.* **2** [I **(to)**] to sell one's (share in a) business: *I was getting too old to run my pub, so I sold out to a large brewery and retired to the country.* **3** [I **(to, on)**] to be disloyal or unfaithful to one's principles or friends, esp. for money: *He was a good writer, but he sold out and now just writes for money.* —see also SELL-OUT

sell (sthg. ↔) **up** *phr v* [I;T] *esp. BrE* to sell (everything one owns, esp. a business): *He sold up (his business) and emigrated to Australia.*

sell[2] *n* [S] *BrE infml* a deception: *These chocolates are hollow in the middle—what a sell!* –-see also HARD SELL, SOFT SELL

Sel·la·field /ˈseləfiːld/ a NUCLEAR power station in Cumbria, N England, formerly called Windscale, where nuclear FUEL is reprocessed (REPROCESS) (=treated so that it can be used again)

sell-by date /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n* a date stamped onto a product which decays, e.g. milk, after which it must no longer be offered for sale in a shop

sell·er /ˈselәʳ/ *n* **1** a person who sells things —compare BUYER **2** (*sometimes in comb.*) a product with the stated type or amount of sales: *He hopes his new book will be a bigger seller than the last.* —see also BEST-SELLER

Sel·lers /ˈselәz‖-lәrz/, **Peter** (1925–1980) an English actor well-known for the funny characters he played esp. Dr Strangelove and Inspector Clouseau, and his funny radio show *The Goon Show*

seller's mar·ket /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [S] a state of affairs in which there are not many goods for sale, buyers have little choice, and prices tend to be high —compare BUYER'S MARKET

selling point /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a fact or quality which can be strongly mentioned in favour of a product in order to persuade people to buy it: *The computer's two main selling points are that it's cheap and portable.*

selling price /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the price at which something is sold, esp. to the final customer or user

sel·lo·tape[1] /ˈseləteɪp, ˈselәʊ-/ *BrE* ‖ **Scotch tape** *tdmk*, **tape** *AmE– n* [U] *tdmk* (*often cap.*) sticky thin clear material in long narrow lengths which is used for sticking paper, mending light objects, etc.: *a roll of sellotape*

sellotape[2] *BrE* ‖ **Scotch tape** *tdmk*, **tape** *AmE– v* [T] *tdmk* to put together or mend with sellotape

sell-out /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a performance, sports match, etc., for which all tickets are sold **2** *infml* an act of disloyalty or unfaithfulness to one's principles or friends; BETRAYAL —see also SELL **out**

sel·vage, -vedge /ˈselvɪdʒ/ *n* the edge of a piece of cloth that is strengthened on both sides to prevent threads from coming out

selves /selvz/ *pl. of* SELF

se·man·tic /sɪˈmæntɪk/ *adj* of meaning in language – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv* : *"Purchase" and "buy" are semantically the same.* (=have the same meaning)

se·man·tics /sɪˈmæntɪks/ *n* [U] the study of the meaning of words and other parts of language

sem·a·phore /ˈseməfɔːʳ/ *n* [U] a system of sending messages using two flags held one in each hand in various positions to represent letters and numbers

sem·blance /ˈsembləns/ *n* [S **(of)**] *fml* an appearance; outward form or seeming likeness: *We had to call in the troops to bring a|some semblance of* (=at least some) *order to the riot-torn city.*

se·men /ˈsiːmәn/ *n* [U] a liquid produced by the male sex organs which carries SPERM and is passed into the female during the sexual act

se·mes·ter /sɪˈmestәʳ/ *n* either of the two periods into which a year at high schools and universities, esp. in the US, is divided —compare TERM[1] (2)

sem·i /ˈsemi/ *n* **semis** *BrE infml* **1** a SEMIDETACHED house **2** *infml* a SEMIFINAL **3** *AmE* an articulated (ARTICULATE[2] (3)) lorry

semi- see WORD FORMATION

sem·i·au·to·mat·ic /ˌsemiɔːtәˈmætɪk◂/ *adj* (of a gun) that loads each new bullet by itself but has to have its TRIGGER pulled to fire each shot

sem·i·breve /ˈsemɪbriːv/ *BrE* ‖ **whole note** *AmE– n* a musical note with a time value equal to two MINIMS —see picture at NOTATION

sem·i·cir·cle /ˈsemɪˌsɜːkәl‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **1** half a circle **2** a group arranged as if along the outside curve of this: *The teacher asked the pupils to sit in a semicircle to listen to the story.* —**cular** /ˌsemɪˈsɜːkjʊlәʳ◂‖-ˈsɜːr-/ *adj*

sem·i·co·lon /ˌsemɪˈkәʊlәn‖ˈsemɪˌkәʊlәn/ *n* a mark (;) used in writing and printing to separate independent parts of a sentence and different things in a list —compare COLON[2] and see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK

sem·i·con·duc·tor /ˌsemɪkәnˈdʌktәʳ/ *n* a substance, such as SILICON, which allows the passing of an electric current more easily than an INSULATOR, but not as well as a CONDUCTOR. Semiconductors are used in making TRANSISTORS.

sem·i·de·tached /ˌsemɪdɪˈtætʃt◂/ *n, adj* **1** *BrE* ‖ **duplex** *AmE–* (a house) that is one of a pair of joined houses – compare DETACHED (1), TOWN HOUSE; and see picture at HOUSE and see colour picture on page 162 **2** following accepted customs and standards without thinking

sem·i·fi·nal /ˌsemɪˈfaɪnl◂/ *n* either of a pair of matches whose winners then compete against one another to decide the winner of the whole competition – ~**ist** *n*

sem·i·nal /ˈsemɨnәl/ *adj* **1** *fml apprec* influencing future development in a new way: *Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" was a seminal work.* **2** [A *no comp.*] of, producing, or being SEMEN: *seminal fluid*

sem·i·nar /ˈsemɨnɑːʳ/ *n* a small group, esp. a class of advanced students with a teacher, meeting to study or talk about a subject

sem·i·na·ry /ˈsemɨnәri‖-neri/ *n* **1** a college for training esp. ROMAN CATHOLIC priests **2** *old-fash fml* a school: *a young ladies' seminary*

Sem·i·nole /ˈsemɨnәʊl/ *n* [C; *the*+P] (a member of) a Native American people which lived in Florida. The Seminoles made peace with the US government, but were then

forced to move to special areas in Oklahoma. —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

sem·i·ot·ics /ˌsemiˈɒtɪks‖-ˈɑːtɪks/ also **sem·i·ol·o·gy** /ˌsemiˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑːl-/— *n* [U] *tech* the study of signs and their meaning in the exchange of information, esp. in language —**-ician** /ˌsemiəˈtɪʃən/, **semiologist** /ˌsemi-ˈɒlədʒɪst‖-ˈɑːl-/ *n*

sem·i·pre·cious /ˌsemɪˈpreʃəs◂/ *adj* (of a jewel, stone, etc.) of lower value than a PRECIOUS STONE

sem·i·pro·fes·sion·al /ˌsemɪprəˈfeʃənəl◂/ *adj* taking part in an activity for pay but not as a full-time job: *a semiprofessional footballer|musician*

sem·i·qua·ver /ˈsemɪˌkweɪvəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **sixteenth note** *AmE*— *n* a short musical note, with a time value half as long as a QUAVER — see picture at NOTATION

semi-skimmed /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *BrE*‖**two percent (milk)** *AmE*— *adj* (of milk) having had about half of the fat removed

Se·mit·ic /sɪˈmɪtɪk/ *adj* **1 a** of a race of people (the **Semites**) including Jews and Arabs and, in ancient times, Babylonians, Assyrians, etc. **b** of any of the languages of these people **2** Jewish —see also ANTI-SEMITISM

sem·i·tone /ˈsemɪtəʊn/ *BrE* ‖ **half step** *AmE*— *n* a difference in PITCH[3] (7) (=highness of a musical note) equal to that between two notes which are next to each other on a piano

sem·i·trop·i·cal /ˌsemɪˈtrɒpɪkəl◂‖-ˈtrɑː-/ *adj* SUBTROPICAL

sem·i·vow·el /ˈsemɪˌvaʊəl/ *n tech* a speech sound, such as /w/or /j/, between a vowel and a consonant

sem·i·week·ly /ˌsemɪˈwiːkli◂/ *adj, adv* appearing or happening twice a week —compare BIWEEKLY

sem·o·li·na /ˌseməˈliːnə◂/ *n* [U] grains of crushed wheat used esp. in making PASTA and smooth cooked milky dishes: *semolina pudding*

Sem·tex /ˈsemteks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* the name of a plastic explosive produced in Czechoslovakia and sometimes used by the IRA

SEN /ˌes iː ˈen/ *n abbrev. for:* STATE ENROLLED NURSE

sen·ate /ˈsenɪt/ *n* (*usu. cap.*) **1** [(*the*) C+*sing./pl. v*] the smaller and more important of the two parts of the central law-making body in such countries as Australia, France, and the US: *The Senate has voted to support the President's defence plans.* —see also extra information on page 568

▶CULTURAL NOTE The US Senate has 100 senators, two from each state, who are elected by the people in that state. A senator serves for six years. —compare CONGRESS (1), HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES◀

2 [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] the highest council of state in ancient Rome **3** [(*the*) C+*sing./pl. v*] the governing council at some universities **4** [(*the*) C + *sing./pl.v*] **state senate** the governing council in US states

sen·a·tor /ˈsenətəʳ/ *n* (*often cap.*) a member of a SENATE (1,2): *Senator Kennedy* —see also extra information on page 568

sen·a·to·ri·al /ˌsenəˈtɔːriəl◂/ *adj* [A] *fml* of a senate or senator

send /send/ *v* **sent** /sent/ **1** [T (**to**)] to cause to go or be taken to a place, in a particular direction, etc., without going oneself: *It will get there quicker if you send it by airmail.| Did you send a birthday card to Susan?* (=by post) [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *Did you send Susan a birthday card? | The spacecraft sent pictures back to Earth. | We are sending our luggage ahead by sea. | I had some coffee sent up to my room.* [+*obj+to-v*] *I'll have to send my passport to be renewed.* **2** [T] **a** to direct or order (someone) to go: *"I've come to collect the films." "Who sent you?" | The allies agreed to send reinforcements. | to send a criminal to prison | The doctor sent me to bed. | The general sent his men into battle.* [+*obj+to-v*] *She sent her daughter to buy some milk. | We'll send someone round to repair your TV.* **b** [+*obj+adv|prep*] to arrange or make it possible for (someone) to go: *Are you going to send your children to private schools? | The company are sending me on a management course.* **3** [T+*obj+v-ing*] to cause to move quickly and uncontrollably: *The explosion sent glass flying everywhere. | The punch in the chest sent me reeling.* **4** [T+*obj+adj|adv|prep*] to cause to have a particular feeling or be in a particular state: *This noise is sending me mad! | The explosion sent the whole place into total confusion. | His boring speeches always send me to sleep.* **5** [T+*obj+adv|prep*, esp. OUT, FORTH] *esp. lit* to produce from itself: *The crowd sent out a roar of approval. | The branches are sending forth buds.* **6** [I (**for**);T (**to**)] to cause (a message, request, or order) to be made known; give (a command, request, etc.): *The King sent and had the man brought to him. | We may have to send to Japan for the spare parts. | Send for help|a doctor! | Mother sends her love and says she hopes to see you soon.* [+*to-v*] *He sent to tell us he couldn't come.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *Send them my best wishes when you see them.* **7 send someone packing** *infml* to tell someone unwanted to leave at once **8 send word** to send a message

send away|off *phr v* **1** [T] (**send** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **away**) to send to another place: *He sent his son away|off to school in Germany.* **2** [I (**for**)] to order goods to be sent by post: *She sent away|off for a set of bed linen she saw advertised in a magazine.*

send down *phr v* **1** [T] (**send** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **down**) to cause to go down: *Reports of the company's bad trading figures sent its share prices down.* **2** [I (**to**)] to send a message, order, etc., to a lower place: *I'll send down to the kitchen for some more coffee.* **3** [T *usu. pass.*] (**send** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *BrE* to dismiss (a student) from a university because of bad behaviour **4** [T] (**send** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *BrE infml* to send to prison: *He was sent down for ten years for robbing a bank.*

send sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to send (something for official consideration, such as a form) to a place where it will be dealt with: *Listeners sent in their suggestions to the radio station.*

send off *phr v* **1** [T] (**send** sthg. ↔ **off**) to post (a letter, parcel, message, etc.) **2** [T] (**send** sbdy. ↔ **off**) *BrE* (in sport) to order (a player) to leave the field because of a serious breaking of the rules **3** [I (**for**);T (=**send** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off**)] to SEND **away** —compare SEND-OFF

send sthg. ↔ **on** *phr v* [T] **1** to send (a letter) to the address to which the receiver has since moved: *When he moved he left instructions for his letters to be sent on to his new address.* **2** to send (belongings) in advance to a point on a journey

send out *phr v* **1** [T] (**send** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **out**) to send from a central point: *Make sure you send out the invitations in good time. | The satellite is sending out radio signals. | The order was|The goods were sent out from the warehouse yesterday.* **2** [I (**for, to**)] to (try to) obtain something from somewhere else: *The coffee in the office vending machine is so bad that we prefer to send out (for it) to a local restaurant.*

send sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to go up: *Good news sent prices up on the market.* **2** *BrE infml* to copy the funny or silly qualities, actions, etc., of (a subject, person, etc.) to amuse others; make fun of —see also SEND-UP **3** *AmE infml* to send to prison

send·er /ˈsendəʳ/ *n* a person who sends esp. a letter, parcel, message, etc.

send-off /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a usu. planned show of good wishes at the start of a journey, a new business, etc.: *We were given a wonderful send-off at the airport.* —see also SEND **off**

send-up /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ *takeoff AmE*— *n* [(**of**)] *infml* a copying of the funny or silly qualities, actions, etc., of something or someone in order to make people laugh; PARODY: *The comedian did a send-up of the prime minister.* —see also SEND **up** (2)

Sen·e·ca /ˈsenɪkə/ (about 4 BC–65 AD) a Roman thinker, politician, and writer of plays who was a noted speaker and NERO's teacher, practically ruling during Nero's first years as EMPEROR. He killed himself when he was ordered to, after it was said that he was working against Nero.

Seneca a Native American nation in western New York and eastern Ohio, which is a republic with four RESERVATIONS (=special areas) and about 4000 people —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

Sen·e·gal /ˌsenɪˈgɔːl/ a country in W Africa bordered by the Atlantic Ocean in W; capital Dakar; population 7,172,000 (1989) — **~ese** /ˌsenɪgəˈliːz◂/ *n, adj*

se·nes·cent /sɪˈnesənt/ *adj fml or med* growing old; showing signs of old age —**-cence** *n* [U]

se·nile /ˈsiːnaɪl/ *adj* of or caused by old age; showing the weakness of body or esp. of mind connected with old age: *The poor old lady's getting senile. She keeps hiding things and then says we've stolen them. | He's suffering from*

senile dementia. (=the medical condition of weakness of the mind in old age)

se·nil·i·ty /sɪˈnɪlɨti/ *n* [U] the weakness of mind or body connected with old age

se·ni·or /ˈsiːniəʳ/ *n, adj* [(**to**)] **1** (someone who is) older: *He's my senior* (=is older than me) *by two years.* | *Senior pupils have certain privileges.* —compare JUNIOR (1) **2** (someone) of high or higher rank: *a very senior officer|minister* | *He is senior to me, though he's younger.* —compare JUNIOR (2) **3** *AmE* (a student) of the last year in a HIGH SCHOOL or university course —compare FRESHMAN (2), SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR (4); see MAJOR (USAGE)

Senior *adj* (*abbrev. is* **Sr** *or* **Snr** *BrE*) [after *n*] *esp. AmE* the older (esp. of two men in the same family who have exactly the same name): *The letter was addressed to John Smith Snr.* —compare JUNIOR[1]

senior cit·i·zen /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n euph* an old person, esp. a person over the age of 60 or 65 —compare OAP

se·ni·or·i·ty /ˌsiːniˈɒrɨti‖-ˈɔː-, -ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the condition of being higher in rank or older: *The officers were listed in order of seniority.* **2** official advantage coming from the length of one's service in an organization: *I sacrificed two years' seniority by taking the overseas posting.*

sen·na /ˈsenə/ *n* [U] a tropical plant. It has leaves, and fruit, known as SENNA PODS, which are dried and used as a LAXATIVE (=a medicine to help the action of the bowels). People sometimes make jokes about the effect of senna pods.

Se·ñor /seˈnjɔːʳ‖seɪˈnjɔːr/ *n* (used as a title for a Spanish-speaking man): *Señor Gomez* | *Good morning, Señor.*

Se·ño·ra /seˈnjɔːrə‖seɪˈnjɔːrə/ *n* (used as a title for a Spanish-speaking woman, esp. a married woman)

Se·ño·ri·ta /ˌsenjɔːˈriːtə/ *n* (used as a title for an unmarried Spanish-speaking girl): *Will the Señorita require anything more?*

sen·sa·tion /senˈseɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) direct feeling, such as of heat or pain, coming from one of the five natural senses, esp. the sense of touch: *After the accident he could feel no sensation|there was no sensation in his arm.* | *a drug that produces a tingling sensation in the skin* **2** [C] a general feeling in the mind or body that one cannot describe exactly: [+*that*] *I knew the train had stopped, but I had the sensation that it was still moving.* **3** [C] (a cause of) a state of excited interest: *The new discovery was|caused a great sensation.* | *The scandal has created a sensation in Paris.*

sen·sa·tion·al /senˈseɪʃənəl/ *adj* **1** *infml apprec* wonderful; very good or exciting: *Your team won? That's sensational!* | *You look sensational in that black dress!* **2** *often derog* causing, or intended to cause, excited interest, attention, or shock: *a sensational murder trial* | *sensational headlines* —~**ly** *adv*

sen·sa·tion·al·is·m /senˈseɪʃənəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *derog* the intentional producing of excitement or shock, esp. by newspapers, magazines, etc.: *The paper was accused of sensationalism in its reporting of the murder trial.* —**-ist** *n*

sense[1] /sens/ *n* **1** [U] good and esp. practical understanding and judgment: *He had the (good) sense to go by train rather than drive after hearing the forecast of icy conditions.* | *You should have had enough sense to turn off the electricity supply before disconnecting the wires.* | *There's* **no sense in** *getting angry about it.* (=getting angry will have no good effect) | *Where's the sense in going by boat when the plane costs no more and is quicker?* | (*infml*) *"I think he's a useless player."* "**Talk sense** (=speak reasonably); *he's brilliant!"* —see also COMMON SENSE, HORSE SENSE **2** [C (**of**)] any of the five natural powers of sight, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling which give a person or animal information about the outside world: *I lost my sense of smell|taste.* | *a keen sense of smell* (=a powerful ability to smell things) —see also SIXTH SENSE **3** [C;U (**of**)] (an) ability to understand or make judgments about the stated thing: *I'm afraid I haven't got a very good sense of direction, so I easily get lost.* | *She's got (a) good business sense, so the company should do well in her hands.* | *The comedian put his success largely down to a good sense of timing.* **4** [S+**of**/*that*] a feeling, esp. one that is hard to describe exactly: *The incident left me with a sense of helplessness.* | *a new sense of urgency at the arms-control talks* | *I don't know why, but I had this sense that someone was in the room with me.* **5** [C] a meaning: *I'm using "man" in its broadest sense, including both men and women.* | *The different senses of a word in this dictionary are marked by the numbers* **1, 2,** *etc.* | *He's in every sense* (=in all meanings of the word) *a gentleman.* **6** [U] *fml* an opinion shared by most people present, esp. as suggested by what they have said: *"I won't take a vote," said the chairman, "but the sense of the meeting seems to be that we approve of the plan."* **7 in a sense** when considered from only one point of view; partly: *You are right in a sense, but you don't know all the facts.* **8 make sense:** **a** to have a clear meaning: *No matter how I tried to read it, the sentence didn't make (any) sense (to me).* **b** to be a wise course of action: *It makes sense to take care of your health.* **9 make sense (out) of** to understand: *Can you make (any) sense of what this writer is saying?* —see also SENSES

sense[2] *v* [T] **1** to have a feeling that (something) exists or is there, without having direct proof: *The horse sensed danger and stopped.* | *I could sense her growing irritation, so I got up and left.* [+(*that*)] *I sensed that there was someone in the room with me.* [+*wh-*] *I could sense how unhappy she was feeling.* **2** (esp. of a machine) to discover and record; DETECT: *a device to sense the presence of poisonous gases*

Sense and Sen·si·bil·i·ty /ˌ· · ˌ··ˈ···/ a NOVEL by Jane Austen about the difficulties young women meet in their search for husbands

sense·less /ˈsensləs/ *adj* **1** showing a lack of meaning, thought, or purpose; foolish; POINTLESS: *senseless violence* **2** unconscious: *The box fell on his head and knocked him senseless.* | (fig.) *He was bored senseless* (=extremely) *by the discussion, and found it hard to keep his eyes open.* —compare INSENSIBLE (1) —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sense of hu·mour /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [S] the ability to understand and enjoy sthg. or sbdy. that is funny, or to make people laugh: *She's got a good|no sense of humour.*

sense of oc·ca·sion /ˌ· · · ˈ··/ *n* [S] **1** a natural feeling that tells one how one should behave at a particular social event **2** suitable feeling produced in someone by an important event

sense or·gan /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a part of the body, such as the eye, nose, tongue, or ear, by which the brain receives messages from the outside world

sens·es /ˈsensɨz/ *n* [P] one's ability to think (reasonably): *You must have* **taken leave of your senses** (=be mad) *to have done such a thing.* | *Nobody* **in their right senses** *would pay that much for a painting!* | *She felt faint in the hot room, but going out into the fresh air she quickly* **regained her senses.** (=stopped feeling faint) | *When will she* **come to her senses** *and see that he is a totally unsuitable man to marry?* | *He refuses to pay, but perhaps you can* **bring him to his senses.** (=make him behave sensibly)

sen·si·bil·i·ty /ˌsensɨˈbɪlɨti/ also **sensibilities** *pl.*— *n* [U] **1** *fml* delicate feeling about style or what is correct, esp. in art or behaviour: *Only a person of the greatest sensibility would appreciate all the subtle nuances of this painting.* | *It somewhat wounded her sensibilities to be addressed in that vulgar manner.* **2** [(**to**)] sensitiveness or awareness (AWARE): *sensibility to pain|the delicate nature of the situation*

▷ USAGE Compare **sensibility** and **sensible, sensitivity** and **sensitive. Sensibility** is not related to **sensible** in its meaning of "reasonable and practical" but is closer to **sensible** *of* (="conscious of"). If people have delicate feelings and are quick to enjoy or suffer you can say that they have great **sensibility/sensitivity** or that they are **sensitive. Sensitive/sensitivity** can also be used to suggest that someone is very conscious of other people's opinions and can easily be hurt: *Be careful not to criticize him too much. He's very* **sensitive.**◁

sen·si·ble /ˈsensɨbəl/ *adj* **1** reasonable; having or showing good sense: *a sensible suggestion* | *It was very sensible of you to bring your umbrella.* | *She's very sensible about money.* | *We'll be doing a lot of walking, so you'd better bring some sensible* (=comfortable and strong) *shoes with you.* | *Surely it would be sensible to get a second opinion before taking any further action.* **2** *fml* noticeable: *a sensible increase in temperature* **3** [F+**of**] *old-fash fml* knowing; recognizing; conscious: *He was sensible of the trouble he had caused.* —see INSENSIBLE (USAGE), SENSIBILITY (USAGE), WISE (USAGE) —**-bly** *adv*

sen·si·mil·i·an /ˌsensɨˈmɪliən/ *n, adj* [U] *AmE* a type of CANNABIS (an illegal drug) which is of HAWAIIAN origin and is extremely strong

sen·si·tive /ˈsensɨtɪv/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] strongly or easily influenced or changed by something: *sensitive to cold|pain | light-sensitive photographic paper* **2** [(**about**)] *sometimes derog* having feelings that are easily hurt; easily offended: *Don't be so sensitive – I wasn't criticizing you.| Don't mention that she's put on weight – she's very sensitive about it.* –compare HYPERSENSITIVE **3** showing delicate feelings or judgment in art, music, taste, etc.: *a sensitive performance|actor* –opposite **insensitive** **4** [(**to**)] knowing or being conscious of the feelings and opinions of others: *He's very sensitive to his pupils' need for encouragement and knows when to praise them.* –opposite **insensitive** **5** (of an apparatus) measuring exactly: *a more sensitive thermometer* **6** containing highly secret information: *sensitive official papers* **7** needing to be dealt with carefully so as not to cause trouble or offence; delicate: *This is such a sensitive issue that perhaps the press should not be told. | a price-sensitive market* (=one in which a product will be bought only if the price is exactly right) –see SENSIBILITY (USAGE) – **~ly** *adv* –**-tivity** /ˌsensɨˈtɪvɨti/ also **~ness** /ˈsensɨtɪvnɨs/ *n* [U (**to**)]

sen·si·tize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsensɨtaɪz/ *v* [T (**to**)] to make sensitive: *sensitized photographic film | His illness had sensitized him to bright light.* –compare DESENSITIZE

sen·sor /ˈsensəʳ/ *n tech* an apparatus used for discovering the presence of a particular quality or effect, such as light, heat, sound, etc., esp. in small quantities

sen·so·ry /ˈsensəri/ *adj fml* of or by the bodily senses or their use: *sensory stimuli* –see also ESP

sen·su·al /ˈsenʃuəl/ *adj* **1** of the feelings of the body rather than the mind: *purely sensual pleasures* **2** interested in or making one think of physical, esp. sexual, pleasure: *sensual curves|lips | a sensual woman* – **~ity** /ˌsenʃuˈælɨti/ *n* [U]

▷ USAGE Compare **sensual** and **sensuous.** A **sensual** person is usually one who wants physical and especially sexual pleasure; something that is **sensual** suggests or gives this pleasure. **Sensuous** is used of something that gives pleasure to the senses, or that suggests pleasure found in the senses and in the body: *She uses beautiful* **sensuous** *lines in her drawings.*◁

sen·su·al·ist /ˈsenʃuəlɨst/ *n derog* a person very interested in sensual pleasure

sen·su·ous /ˈsenʃuəs/ *adj* **1** *apprec* giving pleasure to the senses: *The cat stretched itself with sensuous ease in the warm sun. | the sensuous feeling of soft velvet on the skin* **2** full of powerful images or sounds suggesting esp. bodily pleasure: *sensuous music* **3** SENSUAL (2) –see SENSUAL (USAGE) – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

sent /sent/ *past tense & participle of* SEND

sen·tence[1] /ˈsentəns/ *n* **1** (in grammar) a group of words that forms a statement, command, EXCLAMATION, or question, usu. contains a subject and a verb, and (in written English) begins with a capital letter and ends with any of the marks .!? The following are all sentences: "Sing the song again." "Birds sing." "How well he sings!" "Who sang at the concert last night?" –compare CLAUSE (1), PHRASE[1] (1) **2** (an order given by a judge which fixes) a punishment for a criminal declared to be guilty in court: *a six-year (prison) sentence | He received a heavy|light* (=long|short) *sentence. | The sentence was two years (in prison) and a fine of £10,000. | When the jury has given its verdict, the judge will* **pass|pronounce sentence** *(on him). | The* **death sentence** (=being killed) *has been abolished in Britain, and now you get a* **life sentence** (=being put in prison for a very long time) *for murder. | While he was* **under sentence of death** (=waiting to be officially killed) *he was not allowed to speak to other prisoners.*

sentence[2] *v* [T (**to**) *often pass.*] (of a judge or court) to give a punishment to: *He was sentenced to three years in prison.*

sen·ten·tious /senˈtenʃəs/ *adj fml derog* full of supposedly wise remarks about proper behaviour or morality – **~ly** *adv*

sen·tient /ˈsenʃənt/ *adj fml or tech* having feelings and some kind of consciousness: *Man is a sentient being*

sen·ti·ment /ˈsentɨmənt/ *n* **1** [U] *sometimes derog* tender feelings of pity, love, sadness, etc., or remembrance of such feelings in the past: *There's no place for sentiment in business affairs! | It's not a beautiful watch, but I wear it for sentiment because it was my father's.* **2** [C;U] *fml* (a) thought or judgment caused or influenced by feeling: *The prime minister has condemned this act of terrorism, and the other party leaders have expressed similar sentiments. | There is strong public sentiment on the question of unemployment.* **3** [C] also **sentiments** *pl.*– *fml or pomp* an opinion about a matter: *I share your sentiments.| (Those are) my sentiments exactly.* (=I totally agree.) **4** [C] *fml or pomp* a phrase expressing a wish or feeling: *A birthday card usually has a suitable sentiment like "Happy Birthday" on it.*

sen·ti·ment·al /ˌsentɨˈmentl◂/ *adj* **1** showing or based on tender feelings rather than reasonable or practical judgments: *The old clock was a present from my father and has* **sentimental value.** *| She kept all the old photographs for* **sentimental reasons.** **2** *derog* showing too much of such feelings, esp. of a weak or insincere kind: *sentimental love stories* – **~ly** *adv*

sen·ti·ment·al·is·m /ˌsentɨˈmentəl-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] fondness for sentimentality –**-ist** *n*

sen·ti·men·tal·i·ty /ˌsentɨmenˈtælɨti/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* the quality of being SENTIMENTAL (esp. 2)

sen·ti·ment·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˌsentɨˈmentəlaɪz/ *v derog* **1** [T] to treat or consider in a sentimental way: *It's a sentimentalized description of what was really a terrible time to live in.* **2** [I (**over, about**)] to speak, write, etc., sentimentally: *sentimentalizing about his childhood*

sen·ti·nel /ˈsentɪnəl/ *n lit or old use* a guard; sentry

sen·try /ˈsentri/ *n* a soldier standing as a guard outside a building, entrance, etc.

sentry box /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a narrow shelter for a sentry to stand in while on duty

Seoul /səʊl/ the capital city of South Korea, a business, industrial, and CULTURAL centre

se·pal /ˈsepəl/ *n tech* any of the small leaves directly under a flower –see picture at FLOWER

sep·a·ra·ble /ˈsepərəbəl/ *adj* [(**from**)] *fml* that can be separated –opposite **inseparable** –**-bly** *adv* –**-bility** /ˌsepərəˈbɪlɨti/ [U]

sep·a·rate[1] /ˈsepəreɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T (**from**)] to move apart; (cause to) become disconnected physically or in the mind: *Once the spacecraft was in orbit, the satellite separated from its launcher. | The two friends separated at the crossroads. | He found the two boys fighting and stepped in to separate them. | They were great friends and couldn't be separated.* (=were always together) *| As we joined the big crowd I got separated from my friends. | They were once very close* (=good friends), *but their opposing political views have separated them. | In any discussion of the matter, the two issues must be clearly separated.* (=recognized as different) **2** [T (OFF) *often pass.*] to keep apart; mark a division between: *The two parts of the town were separated by a river. | A partition separated the rooms.* **3** [I;T (UP, **into, from**)] to break or divide up into the parts forming the whole: *An orange separates (up) into ten or twelve pieces. | War separated the family. | The teacher separated the children into two groups. | Break the eggs and separate the whites from the yolks.* **4** [I] to stop living together as husband and wife, esp. by a formal agreement **5** [I;T (OUT, **from**)] to (cause to) leave a mixture and form a mass by itself: *If you heat the sauce too much, the butter will separate out.*

sep·a·rate[2] /ˈsepərɨt/ *adj* **1** not the same; different: *This word has three separate meanings. | The restaurant and the bar in this establishment are under separate management. | She's been warned on three separate occasions that the standard of her work is not good enough.* **2** [A] not shared with another; INDIVIDUAL: *We have separate rooms.| We* **went our separate ways** (=went in different directions) *after the party.* **3** [F (**from**)] apart: *Keep the onions separate from the bread or they'll make it smell.* – **~ly** *adv* : *They arrived together but left separately. | Each problem should be assessed separately. | The American hostages were held separately from the rest.*

separate but e·qual /ˌ··· · ˈ··/ *adj* describing the practice of separating black people and white people and giving them (supposedly) equal services, such as schools, houses, hotels, seats on buses and trains, and restaurants. This was legal in the US from 1896 until 1954, when

the Supreme Court decided that blacks could not be forced to go to separate schools from whites. —see also BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA, CIVIL RIGHTS, PLESSEY VS. FERGUSON, SEGREGATION

sep·a·rates /ˈsepərəts/ also **coordinates**— *n* [P] separate women's garments that can be worn together in various combinations, such as a shirt and skirt or a coat and trousers

sep·a·ra·tion /ˌsepəˈreɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] the act of separating or the fact of being separated: *arrangements for the separation of rival supporters at a football match | the separation of church and state* **2** [C;U (**from**)] (a time of) being or living apart: *Lengthy separation of the boy from his mother could lead to psychological problems.* **3** [C] *law* a formal agreement by a husband and wife to live apart, —compare DIVORCE¹, see also TRIAL SEPARATION

separation of church and state /···ˌ··· ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the belief or law that the church should not be involved in governing a country, and that the state should not be allowed to govern religion. This belief is strong in the US, where, for example, prayer is generally not allowed in public schools.

separation of pow·ers /···ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **balance of powers, checks and balance system**— *n* [U] the practice (from a political idea by MONTESQUIEU) of controlling a government's power by dividing it into three branches: the power to make laws (the LEGISLATIVE branch), the power to judge (the JUDICIARY branch), and the power to give orders (the EXECUTIVE branch). The American CONSTITUTION and government are based on this idea.

sep·a·rat·is·m /ˈsepərətɪzəm/ *n* [U] the belief that a particular political or religious group or unit should be separate, and not part of a larger whole —**-ist** *n* : *Sikh separatists in India, who want to form an independent state*

sep·a·ra·tor /ˈsepəreɪtəʳ/ *n* a machine for separating esp. liquids from solids or cream from milk

se·pi·a /ˈsiːpiə/ *n* [U] **1** a reddish-brown paint or ink made from liquid produced by CUTTLEFISH: *a sepia drawing* (=one made with this) **2** the colour of this: *an old-fashioned sepia photograph*

sep·sis /ˈsepsɨs/ *n* [U] *med* a poisoning of part of the body by disease bacteria, often producing PUS (=a poisonous yellowish substance) there

Sep·tem·ber /sepˈtembəʳ/ (*written abbrev. is* **Sept.**) *n* [C;U] **1** the ninth month of the year, between August and October.

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and in the US, September is the end of the summer and the beginning of autumn, when the days are getting shorter. In Britain, the days are often misty and sunny. It is the time that people think of as HARVEST time (= the time when the crops are gathered), and it is the start of the new school year after the long summer holiday: *It happened on September the eleventh/the eleventh of September/(AmE) September eleventh. | This office opened in September 1991. | She started work here last September/the September before last.*◄

2 thirty days hath September an old poem which people use to remind themselves of how many days the different months have:

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November,
And all the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
Which hath but twenty-eight days clear,
and twenty-nine in each leap year.

sep·tet /sepˈtet/ *n* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of seven singers or musicians performing together **2** a piece of music for seven performers —compare OCTET, SEXTET

sep·tic /ˈseptɪk/ *adj esp. BrE* infected with disease bacteria: *a septic finger*

sep·ti·cae·mi·a *esp. BrE* ‖ **-cemia** *AmE* /ˌseptɨˈsiːmiə/ *n* [U] *tech for* BLOOD POISONING

septic tank /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large container, esp. near buildings in country areas, into which body waste matter is carried by pipes to be treated chemically

sep·tu·a·ge·nar·i·an /ˌseptʃuədʒɨˈneərɪən/ *n* a person who is between 70 and 79 years old

Sep·tu·a·ges·i·ma /ˌseptʃuəˈdʒesɨmə/ the third Sunday before LENT

se·pul·chral /sɨˈpʌlkrəl/ *adj* **1** *fml or lit* like or suitable for a grave: *the sepulchral gloom of the crypt* | (fig.) *a sepulchral voice* (=deep and frightening) **2** *tech* of the burial of the dead

sep·ul·chre *BrE* ‖ **-cher** *AmE* /ˈsepəlkəʳ/ *n old use or bibl* a small building or room in which dead people are placed; TOMB. This word is known to most people only as used for the place where Christ was buried. —see also WHITED SEPULCHRE

se·quel /ˈsiːkwəl/ *n* [(**to**)] **1** a book, film, etc., which continues the course of action of, or has the same characters as, an earlier one **2** something that follows something else, esp. as a result: *In/As an unexpected sequel to the leaders' meeting, new trade agreements between the two countries have been announced.*

se·quence /ˈsiːkwəns/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a group of things that are arranged in or happen in an order, esp. following one another in time: *a sequence of historical plays by Shakespeare | A sequence of bad accidents has prompted the council to put up warning signs.* **2** [U] the order in which things or events follow one another; SUCCESSION: *Please keep the numbered cards* **in sequence;** *don't mix them up. | The sequence of events on the night of the murder still isn't known.* **3** [C] a part of a story, esp. in a film, dealing with a single subject or action; scene: *In the next sequence we see the hero rescuing the girl.*

se·quenc·ing /ˈsiːkwənsɪŋ/ *n* [U (**of**)] *fml* arrangement in an order, esp. in time: *In a busy railway station the sequencing of trains is a difficult job.*

se·quen·tial /sɪˈkwenʃəl/ *adj fml* of, forming, or following in (a) sequence —**~ly** *adv* : *They are numbered sequentially, from 1 to 10.*

se·ques·tered /sɪˈkwestəd‖-ərd/ *adj lit* quiet and hidden away from other people: *a sequestered spot by the river bank*

se·ques·trate /sɪˈkwestreɪt, ˈsiːkwɨ-/ also **se·ques·ter** /sɪˈkwestəʳ/— *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *law* to take control of (the property of a debtor, of someone who has disobeyed a court, etc.) by legal order until the debts are paid or the court's order is obeyed —**-tration** /ˌsiːkwɨˈstreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] : *The judge ordered the sequestration of the union's funds.*

se·quin /ˈsiːkwɨn/ *n* a very small flat round shiny piece of metal or plastic sewn onto a garment for decoration: *Her ballgown is decorated with thousands of sequins.* —**-quined** *adj*

se·quoi·a /sɪˈkwɔɪə/ *n* **1** REDWOOD **2** *tech* the group (GENUS) of trees which include REDWOOD trees

Se·quoy·ah /sɨˈkwɔɪə/ (1760?–1843) a Native American of the Cherokee TRIBE who invented a system of writing for the Cherokee language so that he could record his tribe's way of life

se·ra·glio /sɨˈrɑːljəʊ/ *n* **-glios** a HAREM (1)

ser·aph /ˈserəf/ *n* **-aphs** *or* **-aphim** /rəfɪm/ any of the six-winged ANGELS of the highest rank guarding the seat of God according to the Bible —compare CHERUB (3)

se·raph·ic /sɨˈræfɪk/ *adj lit* like or typical of a seraph, esp. in beauty or purity; SUBLIME: *a seraphic smile|child*

Serb /sɜːb‖sɜːrb/ *n* **1** a member of a people from Serbia and nearby areas **2** [U] their language; Serbian (2) — **Serb** *adj* : *the Serb nation*

Serb·i·a /ˈsɜːbiə‖ˈsɜːr-/ part of the former Yugoslavia; capital Belgrade; population 9,760,000 (1988)

Serb·i·an /ˈsɜːbiən‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** a Serb (1) **2** [U] the Serbo-Croatian language as spoken in Serbia or its written form using the CYRILLIC ALPHABET —compare CROATIA — **Serbian** *adj*

Serb·o-Cro·a·tian /ˌsɜːbəʊ krəʊˈeɪʃən◂ ‖ ˌsɜːr-/ also **Serbo-Cro·at** /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/— *n* [U] the language of the Serbs and the CROATS. The Serbian form is written in the CYRILLIC ALPHABET and the CROATIAN form in the Roman alphabet. —**Serbo-Croatian** *adj*

sere , sear /sɪəʳ/ *adj lit* dried up: *the sere and withered leaves of autumn*

ser·e·nade¹ /ˌserɨˈneɪd/ *n* **1** a song or other piece of music sung or played in the open air at night, esp. to a woman by a lover **2** a piece of gentle tuneful music, usu. in several parts, played by a small group of instruments

serenade² *v* [T] to sing or play a SERENADE to

ser·en·dip·i·ty /ˌserənˈdɪpɨti/ *n* [U] *lit or humor* the natural ability to make interesting or valuable discoveries by accident

se·rene /sɨˈriːn/ *adj* **1** completely calm and peaceful; free from trouble, anxiety, or sudden activity: *a serene summer night* | *a serene smile* | *She just says what she thinks, with serene indifference to whether it may offend people.* **2** [A] (part of a royal title in some countries): *His Serene Highness* —~**ly** *adv* —**renity** /sɨˈrenɨti/ *n* [U]

serf /sɜːf‖sɜːrf/ *n* a farm worker, esp. in former times in a FEUDAL system, who had to work for a particular master —compare SLAVE

serf·dom /ˈsɜːfdəm‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* [U] the state or fact of being a serf

serge /sɜːdʒ‖sɜːrdʒ/ *n* [U] a strong usu. woollen cloth used esp. for suits

ser·geant /ˈsɑːdʒənt‖ˈsɑːr-/ *n* **1** a military rank. British sergeants usu. have three V-shaped marks on the upper arm of the uniform. —see TABLE 3 **2** a police officer of next to the lowest rank, typically also having such uniform marks —see also FLIGHT SERGEANT; see FATHER (USAGE)

sergeant-at-arms /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* a SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

sergeant ma·jor /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

se·ri·al[1] /ˈsɪəriəl/ *n* a written or broadcast story appearing in parts at fixed times: *"The Archers" is a British radio serial that has been heard every day for many years.* | *Several magazines have bid for the* **serial rights** *of my novel.*

serial[2] *adj* of, happening in, or arranged in a SERIES or row of things one after the other in their right order: *placed in serial order* | *serial processing on a computer* —compare PARALLEL[1] (3) —~**ly** *adv*

se·ri·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsɪəriəlaɪz/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to print or broadcast (a story already written) as a serial: *"Oliver Twist" was serialized on television.* —**-ization** /ˌsɪəriəlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [C;U (**of**)]

serial kil·ler /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* one who MURDERS a number of people at different times and in different places

serial num·ber /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* a number given to and usu. printed on each of a large number of similar things in order to be able to tell them apart: *The police know the serial numbers of the stolen banknotes.*

se·ries /ˈsɪəriːz/ *n* **series** **1** [(**of**)] a group of things of the same kind or related in some way, coming one after another or in order: *The Philharmonic Society is putting on a series of twelve concerts this winter.* | *This is the latest in a series of proposals on arms limitation.* | *They carried out a series of experiments to test the new drug.* **2** a group of books with related subjects, in a similar style, etc., printed by one company and often under a single name: *We're publishing a new series on ethnic music next year.* **3** (in cricket and BASEBALL) a group of specially important games played one after another: *a Test series between England and Australia* **4** one of a group of programmes on television or radio which are shown regularly over a period of weeks **5 in series** *tech* (of a number of electrical apparatuses) connected in such a way that the same electricity passes through each part one after the other —compare **in parallel** (PARALLEL[2])

ser·if /ˈserɨf/ *n* a short line at the upper or lower end of the stroke of some sorts of printed letters —see also SANS SERIF

se·ri·o·com·ic /ˌsɪəriəʊˈkɒmɪk◂‖-ˈkɑː-/ *adj fml* both serious and funny: *a seriocomic novel*

se·ri·ous /ˈsɪəriəs/ *adj* **1** not easy to deal with; causing worry and needing attention; not slight: *The storm caused serious damage.* | *The company is in serious financial difficulties.* | *There are serious objections to these proposals.* | *serious crime* | *a serious injury|situation* **2** as if thinking deeply about important or worrying matters: *You look very serious; is anything the matter?* | *a serious manner|expression* **3** not joking or funny; (intended) to be considered as sincere: *Do you think he's serious about leaving* (=really intends to leave) *his wife?* | *He's not a serious contender for the job.* (=he is very unlikely to get it) | *"Management have decided to give us an extra day's holiday as a special bonus." "You can't be serious!"* **4** of an important kind; needing or having great skill or thought: *This subject has never been paid any serious attention.* | *a serious article* (=intended to make one think rather than to amuse) | *serious music* | (fig., *humor*) *We'll be doing some serious drinking* (=we'll drink a lot of alcohol) *over Christmas.* —~**ness** [U]

serious crime squad /ˌ··· ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a British police department established in certain areas specifically to be responsible for serious crime

Serious Fraud Of·fice /ˌ··· ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] a British government department whose work is to find out whether people or companies have behaved deceitfully and illegally in order to make money

se·ri·ous·ly /ˈsɪəriəsli/ *adv* **1** in a serious way: *She was seriously injured in the accident.* | *He's so frivolous; he never* **takes anything seriously.** (=treats anything as being serious) **2** *infml* (used at the beginning of a sentence to turn attention away from a joke or towards a serious statement or subject): *Seriously though, you ought to take more care of your health.*

ser·jeant-at-arms , **sergeant-** /ˌsɑːdʒənt ət ˈɑːmz‖ ˌsɑːrdʒənt ət ˈɑːrmz/ *n* **serjeants-at-arms** (in Britain) an officer of a law court, parliament, etc., with the duty of keeping order during meetings

ser·mon /ˈsɜːmən‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* [(**on**)] **1** a religious talk given as part of a Christian church service, usu. based on a sentence from the Bible: *The minister preached a sermon on the importance of brotherly love.* **2** *infml derog* a long and solemn warning or piece of advice

ser·mon·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsɜːmənaɪz‖ˈsɜːr-/ *v* [I] *derog* to give moral advice, esp. in too long and solemn a way

Sermon on the Mount /ˌ··· · · ˈ·/ [*the*] (in the Bible) a talk given by Jesus teaching about moral behaviour

ser·pent /ˈsɜːpənt‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** *lit and bibl* a snake, esp. a large one.

► CULTURAL NOTE In the Bible a serpent in the Garden of Eden encourages Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, to disobey God and eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. —see also FALL, SNAKE[1] (CULTURAL NOTE) ◄

2 *esp. bibl* a wicked person who leads people to do wrong or harms those who are kind to him **3** *usu. cap.* the DEVIL

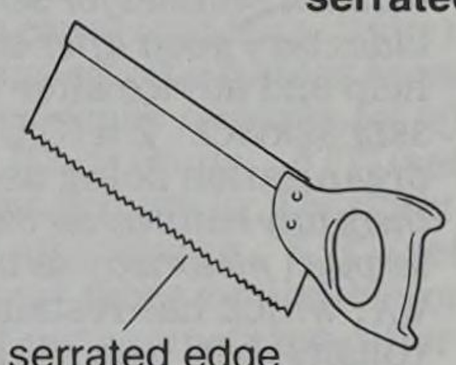
ser·pen·tine /ˈsɜːpəntaɪn‖ˈsɜːrpənti:n/ *adj lit* twisting like a snake; following a course with many curves; winding: *the serpentine course of the river*

Serpentine [*the*] a lake in Hyde Park in London. It is a custom for some people to swim in it on Christmas Day.

SERPS /sɜːps‖sɜːrps/ State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme; a British government system which pays a regular income to those who have reached the age to stop work, based on the earnings of their working life

ser·rat·ed /sɨˈreɪtɨd, se-/ *adj* having (an edge with) a row of connected V-shapes like teeth: *A knife for cutting bread has a serrated edge.* | *a serrated leaf* —**serration** /-ˈreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

serrated



serrated edge

ser·ried /ˈserid/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] *lit* pressed closely together; CROWDED: *The* **serried ranks** (=large numbers close together) *of his supporters filled the square.*

se·rum /ˈsɪərəm/ *n* **-rums** *or* **-ra** /rə/ **1** [C;U] (a) liquid prepared from animal blood containing disease-fighting substances used for putting into a sick person's blood: *anti-snakebite serum* —compare VACCINE **2** [U] *tech* the watery part of an animal or plant liquid, esp. blood

ser·vant /ˈsɜːvənt‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** a person who is paid to do personal services for someone, such as cleaning or cooking, esp. in their house: *In the last century many people used to employ servants.* **2** [(**of**)] *fml* a person who serves someone, rather than controlling their activities: *A politician should be a servant of the people.* —see also CIVIL SERVANT

serve[1] /sɜːv‖sɜːrv/ *v* **1** [I (**in, on, under**);T (**as**)] to do work (for); give service (to): *He served in the army|on the committee.* | *to serve as a member of parliament* | *He has served the company for fifty years, first as office boy and eventually as managing director.* | *Membership is restricted to serving officers in the armed forces.* | (fig.) *If my* **memory serves** *(me)* (=if I remember correctly), *it happened on*

a Tuesday. **2** [T (**with**) *often pass.*] to provide with something necessary or useful: *A single pipeline serves all the houses with water.* | *The outlying islands are served by a ferry which calls twice a week.* **3** [I;T (UP, OUT)] to offer (food, drinks, a meal, etc.) for eating or drinking: *Could you all come to the table—we're ready to serve.* | *What time is breakfast served in this hotel?* | *We're not allowed to serve alcohol in this club.* | *How can you dare to serve up such a terrible meal?* | *This dish serves six.* (=there is enough of it for six people to eat) [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *She served us tea and toast.* [+*obj*+**to**] *She served tea and toast to us.* [+*obj*+**with**] *She served us with tea and toast.* [+*obj*+*adj*] *Make sure you serve the coffee hot.* **4** [T *usu. pass.*] (esp. of a person employed in a shop) to attend to (a customer), e.g. by showing or esp. selling goods to them: *Are you being served?* (=Is someone else already attending to you?) | *They refused to serve him in the cocktail bar because he wasn't wearing a tie.* **5** [T (**as, for, in**)] to pass and complete (a period of time): *She served two years (in prison) for theft.* | *He has served his sentence|his time and should be freed.* | *Reagan served two terms as President.* **6** [I (**for, as**);T] *fml* to be good enough or suitable for (a purpose): *One room had to serve as|for both bedroom and living room.* | *I haven't got a hammer, but this stone should serve (my purpose).* | *This incident serves as a reminder of how dangerous these weapons really are.* [+*to-v*] *This polythene sheet should serve to keep out the rain for a while.* | *Her remarks served only to worsen the situation.* (=had the effect of making it worse) **7** [I;T] (in tennis, VOLLEYBALL, etc.) to begin play by hitting (the ball) to the opponent: *It's your turn to serve.* | *to serve an ace* **8** [T] *law* to deliver (an official order to appear in court): *Has the summons been served yet?* [+*obj*+**on**] *The bailiff served a summons on him.* [+*obj*+**with**] *He served him with a summons.* **9 serve someone right** *infml* to be a suitable punishment for someone: *After all you've eaten it serves you right if you feel ill.*

serve sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to work until the end of (a period of time fixed for a duty, esp. one already begun)

serve[2] *n* an act or manner of serving (SERVE[1] (7)), esp. in tennis

serv·er /ˈsɜːvəʳ‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** something used in serving food, esp. a specially shaped tool for putting a particular kind of food onto a plate: *salad servers* **2** a player who SERVES[1] (7), esp. in tennis **3** a person who helps a priest during the EUCHARIST

ser·ve·ry /ˈsɜːvəri‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n esp. BrE* the part of an informal eating place where people get food to take back to their tables

ser·vice[1] /ˈsɜːvɨs‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] attention to customers in a shop or esp. to guests in a hotel, restaurant, etc.: *The service in this place is slow|bad; sometimes you have to wait ten minutes for service.* | *This computer supplier provides very good after-sales service.* (=gives the customer help and advice after the sale) —see also ROOM SERVICE, SELF-SERVICE **2 a** [C;U] (the operation of) a business or organization doing useful work or supplying a need: *Is there any railway service here on Sundays?* | *a good postal service* | *motorway services* (=a place for users of a MOTORWAY which has restaurants, petrol stations, shops, and TOILETS) **b** [C *usu. pl.*] a useful business or job that does not produce goods: *The value of a country's* **goods and services** *is its GNP.* | **service occupations** *such as education, hairdressing, architecture, and the legal profession* —see also NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, SOCIAL SERVICE **3** [U] **a** work or duty done for someone: *He died* **in the service of** (=serving) *his country.* **b** active use: *This old coat has* **seen** *a lot of* **service**|*has* **given good service.** (=been used for a long time) | *This type of aircraft has been in service since the early 1970s.* **4** [C *usu. pl.*] *fml* an act or job done for someone: *You may need the services of a lawyer in this affair.* | *He was rewarded for his services to the government.* | *Thank you very much; you've* **done** *me a great* **service.** (=helped me very much) **5** [C *often pl.*;U] (duty in) any of the ARMED FORCES: *She joined* **the services.** (=joined the army, navy, etc.) | *The Royal Navy is sometimes called the* **Senior Service.** | *He spent many years overseas* **on active service.** (=fighting or ready to fight) —see also NATIONAL SERVICE, SECRET SERVICE **6** [C] a fixed form of public worship; a religious ceremony

►CULTURAL NOTE In a Christian service there are usu. prayers, readings from the Bible, HYMNS (=religious songs), and a SERMON (=talk by a priest). In the Christian church, the main services are on Sundays. There are special services for weddings and funerals, and for Christmas: *Our church has three services each Sunday.* | *a marriage/funeral/memorial service*◄

7 [(*the*) C *usu. sing.*] *esp. BrE* a particular government department: *She works in the diplomatic|the foreign service.* —see also CIVIL SERVICE **8** [C;U] an examination of a machine to keep it in good condition: *I'm taking my car in for its 5000-mile service.* | *a typewriter service centre* **9** [C] an act or manner of serving (SERVE[1] (7)), esp. in tennis: *He has a good fast service.* | *It's your service.* (=your turn to serve) **10** [C] the dishes, tools, etc., needed to serve a stated meal: *a silver tea service* **11** [U (**of**)] *law* the delivering of an order to appear in court: *the service of a writ* **12** [U] *old-fash* employment as a servant in someone's home: *She was* **in service** *all her life.* **13 at your service** *polite or pomp* willing to help: *If you need any help, I and my car are at your service.* **14 of service** useful; helpful: (*polite*) *Can I be of (any) service to you?* —see also LIP SERVICE

service[2] *v* [T] **1** to examine (a machine) and make any necessary repairs: *I'm having my car serviced.* | *Regular servicing will prolong the life of the machine.* **2** *tech* to pay the interest on (a debt): *Some of these countries are no longer able to service their massive loans.*

service[3] *adj* [A] for the use of people working in a place, rather than the public: *a service entrance* | *service stairs*

ser·vi·cea·ble /ˈsɜːvɨsəbəl/ *adj* that can be used; fit for (long or hard) use: *a serviceable pair of shoes* —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˌsɜːvɨsəˈbɪlɨti‖ˌsɜːr-/ *n* [U]

service charge /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* **1** an amount of money added to a restaurant bill by the restaurant to reward the waiters for their work —compare TIP **2** an amount of money paid to the LANDLORD of a block of flats for common services e.g. cleaning the stairs

service club /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* an organization, often for men only, that has local branches in which members work together in ways to support the COMMUNITY: *Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, and other service clubs*

service flat /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a flat whose rent includes a charge for certain services, such as cleaning, providing sheets, etc.

service in·dus·try /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [C;U] (any particular group of) businesses which are considered to provide a service rather than a product, such as accounting, insurance, or advertising

ser·vice·man /ˈsɜːvɨsmən‖ˈsɜːr-/ **ser·vice·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.*— *n* **-men** /mən/ a member of the army, navy, etc.

service road /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small road along one side of a main road for the use of local traffic

service sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a GARAGE[1] (2)

ser·vi·ette /ˌsɜːviˈet‖ˌsɜːr-/ *BrE*‖**napkin** *AmE*— *n* a table NAPKIN (1) —see picture at PLACE SETTING

ser·vile /ˈsɜːvaɪl‖ˈsɜːrvəl, -vaɪl/ *adj derog* behaving like a slave; allowing oneself to be controlled completely by another: *servile obedience* —~**ly** /ˈsɜːvaɪl-li‖ˈsɜːrvəl-li, -vaɪl-li/ *adv* —**vility** /sɜːˈvɪlɨti‖sɜːr-/ *n* [U]

serv·ing /ˈsɜːvɪŋ‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* [(**of**)] an amount of food for one person; HELPING: *a large serving of potatoes*

ser·vi·tor /ˈsɜːvɨtəʳ‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n old use* a male servant

ser·vi·tude /ˈsɜːvɨtjuːd‖ˈsɜːrvɨtuːd/ *n* [U] *lit* the condition of a slave or one who is forced to obey another: *They spent their lives in servitude (to the enemy conquerors).*

ser·vo /ˈsɜːvəʊ‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **servos** a servomotor or servomechanism —see picture at ENGINE

ser·vo·mech·a·nis·m /ˈsɜːvəʊˌmekənɪzəm‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* an apparatus that supplies power to (part of) a machine and controls its operation

ser·vo·mo·tor /ˈsɜːvəʊˌməʊtəʳ‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* a machine which allows a heavy operation to be done with only a slight effort by the user

ses·a·me /ˈsesəmi/ *n* [U] a tropical plant grown for its seeds and their oil, used esp. in cooking —see also OPEN SESAME

Sesame Street /ˈ··· ˌ·/ an American television programme for young children which teaches numbers, letters, and other lessons, with characters such as Big Bird, Kermit the Frog, Oscar, and the Cookie Monster

ses·sion /ˈseʃən/ *n* **1** a formal meeting or group of

meetings of an organization, esp. a law-making body or court: *The next session of Parliament will begin in November.* | *Be seated! This court is now* **in session.** (=it has now formally begun) **2** a meeting or period of time used esp. by a group for a particular purpose: *a recording session* | *a jazz session* | *a drinking session* | *a question-and-answer session* **3** *ScotE* any of the parts of the year when teaching is given at a university —see also QUARTER SESSIONS

ses·sions /ˈseʃənz/ *n* [P] **1** PETTY SESSIONS **2** QUARTER SESSIONS

set[1] /set/ *v* **set,** *present participle* **setting** ■ to put something into a particular place or position **1** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to put (something) in the stated place or position, esp. so that it remains there: *The hotel porter took her suitcases from the taxi and set them down at the reception desk.* | *The waiter set a plate of food down in front of me.* | *to set a ladder against a wall* | *to set pen to paper* (=begin to write) | *That man's not my brother—I've never* **set eyes on** (=seen) *him before!* —see also SET[2] (1), CLOSE-SET **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*; *usu. pass.*] to show the action of (a story, play, etc.) as happening in the stated place and time; give a SETTING (3b) to: *The book is set in 17th-century Spain.* ■ to put someone or something into a particular state or activity **3** [T+*obj*+*adj*/*adv*/*prep*] to cause to be in a stated condition: *I opened the cage and set the bird free.* | *This mistake must be set right.* | *She set the papers on fire.*/*set them alight* | *to set the accounts in order* | *The discovery of oil set the country on the road to modernization.* | *We have the government's approval, so we are now ready to* **set things in motion**/**set the ball rolling.** (=begin a planned course of action) | *The children are safe so you can* **set your mind at rest.** (=stop worrying) —see FIRE (USAGE) **4** [T+*obj*+*v-ing*] to cause to start: *Your remarks have set me thinking.* | *He set the machine going with a push.* ■ to prepare or arrange something for use **5** [T (**for**)] to put into correct condition for use: *I set the camera for a long-distance shot.* | *She set the alarm for 7.30 a.m.* (=fixed it so that it would ring then) | *He set the table* (=put the plates, glasses, etc., on it) *for dinner.* | *The stage is set for the next part of the play.* | *His activities are so regular you could set your watch* (=make it show the right time) *by him.* —see CLOCK (USAGE) **6** [T (UP)] to arrange for printing: *Today most books are set (up) by machine.* —see also TYPESETTER ■ to establish something or fix it into position **7** [T] to fix or establish (a rule, time, standard, number, etc.): *The price was set at £1000.* | *Have you set a date for your wedding yet?* | *The government has set strict limits on pay increases.* | *By allowing them to go unpunished we are setting a dangerous precedent.* | *He set a new land speed record.* | *The preliminary discussion between them* **set the tone** (=established suitable conditions) *for a succession of fruitful meetings.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Her behaviour sets us all a good example.* **8** [T] to fix (a precious stone) into (a piece of jewellery): [+*obj*+**in**] *He had the diamond set in a ring.* [+*obj*+**with**] *The ring is set with three diamonds.* | (fig., *fml*) *The dark sky was set with bright stars.* **9** [I;T] **a** (of a broken bone) to mend in a fixed position **b** to put (a broken bone) into a fixed position so that it will mend **10** [T] to arrange (hair) when wet so that it will be in a particular style when dry **11** [T] **a** [+*adv*/*prep*, esp. DOWN] to place (esp. oneself) in or on a seat; sit: *They bought some drinks at the bar then set themselves down at a table.* **b** to fix (a part of the body) firmly, esp. to show strong feelings, determination, etc.: *He set his jaw and refused to agree to anything I said.* | *She has* **set her face against** (=she firmly opposes) *her daughter's marriage.* | *The child has* **set his heart** *on that toy.* (=wants it very much) | *I've* **set my mind** *on this plan and I won't give it up.* ■ other meanings **12** [T] to give (a piece of work) for (someone) to do: *Who set (the questions for) the exam?* | *Which books have been set for this year's English exam?* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *The teacher set the class various exercises.* | *The fall in oil prices has set the government a difficult problem.* | *We* **set them to work** *clearing up all the rubbish.* —see also SET[2] (3) **13** [T] to write or provide music for (a poem or other words to be sung): *Housman's poems were* **set to music** *by Vaughan Williams.* **14** [I;T] **a** to cause (a liquid, soft material, etc.) to become solid: *Set the jelly by putting it in a cold place.*| (fig.) *set-in-concrete ideas* **b** (of such materials) to harden or become solid: *It will take two or three days for the concrete to set.* **15** [I] (of the sun, the moon, a star, etc.) to pass downwards out of sight below the horizon: *In the winter the sun sets early.* —opposite **rise** **16** [I] *tech* (of a plant) to form and develop seed or fruit: *Our apple trees set well last year even though there was a water shortage.* **17** [I;T] *tech* (of a dog) to point out the position of (an animal or bird) with its nose while keeping still

■ phrasal verbs

set about sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1 a** to begin to do or deal with; start: *The sooner we set about it the sooner we'll finish.* [+*v-ing*] *We set about clearing up the mess.* | *I wouldn't even know how to set about mending a watch.* **b** to deal with; do: *He set about this job in completely the wrong way.* **2** *infml* to attack: *Our dog set about the postman.*

set sbdy./sthg. **against** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** [(OFF)] to lessen the bad effect of (something) by treating it as not open to (something else bad) or by comparing it with (something good): *Certain business losses can be set (off) against taxes.* | *He has many virtues to set against his faults.* —compare OFFSET **2** to cause to oppose: *Religious wars set family against family.*

set sthg./sbdy. ↔ **apart** *phr v* [T (**from**)] to show to be clearly different and usu. better: *His mastery of colour sets him apart from other painters of his era.*

set sthg. ↔ **aside** *phr v* [T] **1** also **set by**— to save for a special purpose: *She set aside a little money each week.*| *Try to set aside some time to visit him.* **2** to leave out of consideration: *Setting aside my wishes in the matter, what would you really like to do?* **3** *law* to declare to be of no effect: *The judge set aside the decision of the lower court.*

set back *phr v* [T] **1** (**set** sthg. ↔ **back**) to place at esp. the stated distance behind something: *The house is set 15 feet back from the road.* **2** (**set** sthg. ↔ **back**) to delay the advance or development of, esp. by the stated period; make late by a certain amount: *The bad weather will set back our building plans (by three weeks).* —see also SETBACK **3** (**set** sbdy. **back** sthg.) *infml* to cost (someone) a large amount of money: *That's a nice suit; it must have set you back a bit*/*a few pounds.*

set sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** *BrE* (of a vehicle or its driver) to stop and let (a passenger) get out: *The bus sets the children down just outside the school gate.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to establish as what must be done: *It's clearly set down that you're not allowed to vote twice.* **3** *old-fash* to make a written record of: *I have set down everything that happened, exactly as I remember it.*

set in *phr v* [I] (of a disease, bad weather, etc.) to begin and probably continue: *Winter sets in early in the north.*| *The sky looks as if a storm may be setting in.* | *Fortunately the wound was treated before infection could set in.*

set off *phr v* **1** [I] also **set forth** *esp. lit,* **set out**— to begin a journey: *It's getting late — time to set off.* | *They set off in search of the lost child.* **2** [T] (**set** sthg. ↔ **off**) to cause to explode: *The bomb could be set off by the slightest vibration.* | *They set off the fireworks as soon as it got dark.* **3** [T] (=**set** sthg. ↔ **off**) to cause (sudden activity): *The relaxation of the licensing laws set off a sudden boom in the liquor industry.* | *The President's remarks set off a frantic round of activity in the White House.* **4** [T] (**set** sbdy. ↔ **off**) *infml* to cause sudden activity in: *The slightest bit of dust sets me off*/*sets me off sneezing.* **5** [T] (**set** sthg. ↔ **off**) to make (something) more noticeable or pleasing to look at by putting it near something different: *The sapphire necklace set off her eyes beautifully.*

set on *phr v* [T] **1** (**set** sbdy./sthg. **on** sbdy.) to cause to attack or chase: *If you dare to come to my house again, I'll set the dog*/*the police on you!* **2** (**set on** sbdy.) also **set upon**— *old-fash* (esp. of a group) to attack: *He was set on by robbers who took all his money.*

set out *phr v* **1** [T] (**set** sthg. ↔ **out**) to arrange or spread out in order: *Set out the chairs for the meeting in rows of ten.* | *The meal was set out on a long table.* | *The gardens have been beautifully set out.* **2** [I] to SET **off** (1) **3** [I] to begin a usu. long or difficult course of action with a clear purpose: *He obviously set out with the intention of overthrowing the régime.* [+*to-v*] *We set out to paint the whole house but finished only the front part.* | *I think you're deliberately setting out to annoy me.* **4** [T] (**set** sthg. ↔ **out**) also **set forth** *fml*— to explain (facts, reasons, etc.) in order, esp. in writing: *The reasons for my decision are set out in my report.*

set to *phr v* [I] *old-fash infml* to begin eagerly or with determination: *If we all set to, we can finish cleaning the house in an hour.* —compare SET-TO

set sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to put into position: *Roadblocks were set up by the police to catch the escaped*

prisoner. **2** to establish or arrange (an organization, business, plan, etc.): *The council set up a committee to look into unemployment.* | *He set up a trust fund for his niece.* | *As part of the selection procedure, the board set up a situation to test the candidates' ability to make decisions.* **3** to produce; cause: *The high winds set up dangerous driving conditions.* | *Electrical interference set up a high-pitched hum in the radio.* **4** to prepare (an instrument, machine, etc.) for use: *The production team arrived early to set up the cameras and recording equipment.* **5** [+*obj* +*adv*/*prep*; *often pass.*] to provide with what is necessary or useful: *That inheritance has set him up for life.* | *We're well set up with emergency medical supplies.* **6** [(**for**) *often pass.*] *BrE infml* to cause to seem guilty; INCRIMINATE: *The criminals claimed that they had been set up (by the police).* —see also SET-UP **7 set up house**/**home** to begin to live in a place: *They got married and set up house together.*

set (sbdy.) **up as** sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to establish (oneself) in business as: *He set (himself) up as a painter and decorator and soon had plenty of work.* **2** [*no pass.*; *not in progressive forms*] to claim (oneself) to be: *He sets himself up as* (=claims that he is) *an authority on French painting, but he really knows very little about it.*

set[2] *adj* **1** having the stated position; placed: *a city set on a hill* | *He had very deep-set eyes.* | *The house is set back from the road*/*set in beautiful grounds.* —see also SET[1] (1) **2** fixed; that cannot be changed: *I have to study at set hours each day.* | *a set time*/*wage* **3** [A] which must be studied: *The teacher gave us a list of* **set books** *for the course.* —see also SET[1] (12) **4** [A] *BrE* (of a restaurant meal) with a single fixed dish for each course and at a fixed price: *I'll have the set lunch, please.* **5** [F+**on, upon, against**] having a fixed intention; determined: *He's very set on going, and I can't make him see that it's a bad idea.* | *The government's* **dead set** *against* (=very opposed to) *the plan.* **6** [F (**for**)] *infml* ready; prepared: *I'm* **all set,** *so we can go now.* | *The starter of a race often says: "On your marks – get set – go!"* | *Are you all set for the journey?* [+*to-v*] *I was (all) set to leave the house when the telephone rang.* **7** *usu. derog* (of part of the body, manner, state of mind, etc.) fixed in position; unmoving: *She greeted her guests with a set smile.* (=a probably insincere smile) | *She's a woman of set opinions and won't change her mind now.* | *He's about 80 now, and very* **set in his ways.** (=has very fixed habits) **8** [F+*to-v*] likely: *The temperature is set to* (=will probably) *drop very low tonight.* | *This issue seems set to cause serious embarrassment to the government.*

set[3] *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a group of connected things; group forming a whole: *a set of gardening tools* | *a set of fingerprints* | *a set of stairs* | *a 21-piece tea set* (=cups, plates, teapot, etc.) | *a chess set* (=all the pieces for playing the game) | *We are now facing a whole new set of problems.* | *a peculiar set of circumstances* **2** [C] an apparatus for receiving and showing television signals (or for receiving radio signals): *a colour television set* | *Is your set* (=television) *working?* —see also CRYSTAL SET **3** [C] **a** the scenery, furniture, etc., placed on a stage to represent the scene of (part of) the action of a play: *a set designer* **b** a place where a film is acted: *Everyone must be on the set ready to begin filming at eight o'clock.* **4** [C] a part of a tennis match which is won by winning at least six games, and beating one's opponent by at least two games or winning a TIEBREAKER: *Becker won the second set 6-4.* —see TENNIS (USAGE) **5** [C] a part of a concert or group of musical acts, esp. of popular music or JAZZ: *The group played a very impressive set.* **6** [S] an act or result of setting one's hair (SET[1] (10)): *I'd like a* **shampoo and set,** *please.* **7** [(*the*) S+*sing.*/*pl. v*] a group of people of a particular social type: *He goes around with a rather wild set.* —see also JET SET **8** [S] the hardening of a liquid, soft solid, etc.: *You'll get a better set if you use gelatine.* **9** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the position in which one holds part of one's body: *From the set of her shoulders it was clear that she was tired.* **10** [C] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a collection of numbers, points, etc.: *The set {x,y} has two members.* —see also NULL SET **11** [C] a small brown round root planted in order to grow onions: *onion sets* **12** [(*the*) U (**of**)] *poet* the going down of esp. the sun towards and below the horizon —see also SUNSET

set·back /ˈsetbæk/ *n* something that delays or prevents successful progress: *a major setback to our hopes of reaching an agreement* —see also SET **back**

set book /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a book chosen by an examining board to be studied by schoolchildren or students for a literature examination

set piece /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* an especially effective scene in a play, work of art, etc., carefully planned using a well-known formal pattern or style: *The trial scene at the end of the play is an impressive set piece.*

set·square /ˈsetskweəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **triangle** *AmE*– *n* a flat three-sided usu. plastic plate having one right angle and used for drawing or testing angles —see picture at MATHEMATICS

set·tee /seˈtiː/ *esp. BrE* also **sofa, couch** ‖ usu. **sofa, couch** *AmE*– *n* a long seat with a back and usu. arms for seating more than one person —see picture at LIVING ROOM

set·ter /ˈsetəʳ/ *n* **1** a long-haired dog often trained to point out the positions of animals or birds for shooting —see also SET[1] (17) **2** (*often in comb.*) a person or thing that sets: *a setter of traps*/*of fashions* —see also TRENDSETTER, TYPESETTER

set the·o·ry /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* [U] the branch of MATHEMATICS that deals with SETS[3] (10)

set·ting /ˈsetɪŋ/ *n* **1** [*the*+S+**of**] the action of a person or thing that sets: *the setting of the sun* **2** [C] the way or position in which something, esp. an instrument, is set: *This machine has two settings, fast and slow.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] **a** a background; set of surroundings: *What a beautiful setting the hotel is in, with these high mountains all around.* **b** the time and place where the action of a book, film, etc., is shown as happening: *Our story has its setting in ancient Rome.* **4** [C] a piece of metal holding a stone in a piece of jewellery: *a diamond in a gold setting* —see also PLACE SETTING

set·tle[1] /ˈsetl/ *v* **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to place (someone or oneself) so as to be comfortable: *He settled back in his chair and closed his eyes.* | *She settled the child on the sofa.* **2** [I (**on, over, upon**);T] to come or bring to rest, esp. from above, from flight, etc.: *A bird settled on the branch.* | *Dust had settled on the tables and chairs.* | *Stand the bottle upright for a few days to settle the sediment.* | (fig.) *An eerie stillness had settled on*/*over the town.* **3** [I (DOWN, **to**);T] to make or become quiet, calm, still, etc.: *We won't know what's really happened until the noise and excitement have settled down.* | *This medicine should settle your nerves*/*your stomach.* | *Settle down, children; stop running about!* | *Something was worrying me, and I couldn't settle (down) to my work.* —see also SETTLE **down** **4** [T] to decide on; fix; make the last arrangements about: *That's settled; we'll go tomorrow.* | *"The car won't start." "Well,* **that settles it** (=that has decided the matter); *we can't go out tonight."* [+(*that*)/*wh-*] *We've settled that we'll go to Wales, but we still haven't settled when we're going.* —see also SETTLE **on** (1) **5** [I (**with**);T] to end (an argument, esp. in law); bring (a matter) to an agreement: *They settled their quarrel*/*differences in a friendly way.* | *The two companies* **settled** *(their dispute)* **out of court.** (=came to an agreement about it between themselves rather than letting a court of law decide about it) **6** [T *often pass.*] (of people) to go and live in (a place): *The American West was hardly settled until the 19th century.* | *the settled coastal areas of Australia* **7** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to start to live in a place: *They got married and settled near Manchester.* **8** [I] to sink slowly to a lower level; SUBSIDE: *The crack in the wall is caused by the building*/*the ground settling.* **9** [T] to pay (a bill or money claimed): *The insurance company settled the claim quickly.* | *Please settle your account within seven days.* **10 settle one's affairs** to put all one's business matters into order, esp. for the last time because one thinks one may be going to die —see also **when the dust has settled** (DUST[1])

settle down *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**settle** sbdy. **down**)] to (cause to) sit comfortably: *She settled (herself) down in a chair with a book and a cup of tea.* **2** [I] to establish a home and live a quiet life: *I hate all this travel; I want to get married and settle down.* **3** [I] to become used to a way of life, job, etc.: *He soon settled down in his new school.* **4** [I (**to**)] to start giving one's serious or whole attention to a job, activity, etc.: *I must settle down and do my homework.* —see also SETTLE[1] (3)

settle for sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to accept or agree to (something less than the best, or less than one hoped for): *I want £900 for my car and I won't settle for less.* | *She had to settle for an unskilled job because there was no work for people with her qualifications.*

settle (sbdy.) **in** *phr v* [I;T] to (help to) move comfortably into or get used to a new home, job, etc.: *She quickly settled in at her new job.*

settle into sthg. *phr v* [T] to get used to (new surroundings, a new job, etc.): *It didn't take me long to settle into a new routine.*

settle on/upon *phr v* [T] **1** (**settle on** sthg./sbdy.) to decide or agree on; choose: *She wanted blue and I wanted yellow, so we settled on green.* **2** (**settle** sthg. **on** sbdy.) *BrE, fml* to give (money, property, etc.) to (a person) formally in law: *She settled a small yearly sum on each of her children.*

settle up *phr v* [I (**with**)] **1** to pay what is owed on an account or bill: *As soon as we'd finished our meal we settled up and left.* | *I can't take your money, sir; please settle up with the lady at the cash desk.* **2** (of two or more people) to pay and receive what is owed: *You bought the tickets and I paid for the meal. Shall we settle up now?*

settle[2] *n* a long wooden seat with a high solid back, and a bottom part which is a chest with a lid one can sit on. The settle is a typically 17th-century piece of furniture.

set·tled /ˈsetld/ *adj* unlikely to change; fixed: *settled weather/habits* –opposite **unsettled**

set·tle·ment /ˈsetlmənt/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] an agreement or decision ending an argument, question, etc.: *The whole country is hoping for the settlement of this strike.* | *The management have* **reached a settlement** *with the union over the pay dispute.* | *a pay settlement* | *a divorce settlement* **2** [C] a usu. recently built small village in an area with few people; a newly settled place: *a small settlement on the edge of the desert* **3** [U (**of**)] the movement of a new population into a place to live there: *the settlement of the American West* **4** [C;U] a payment of money claimed: *We are sending you a cheque for £400* **in settlement of** *your claim.* **5** [C (**on, upon**)] a formal gift or giving of money or property: *He made a settlement on his daughter when she married.* **6** [U] the slow sinking of a building, the earth under it, etc.; SUBSIDENCE

set·tler /ˈsetlə^{r}/ *n* a member of a new population, esp. in an area with few people: *early settlers in Australia*

set-to /ˈ· ·/ *n* [S (**with**)] *infml* a short fight or quarrel – compare SET **to**

set-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** an arrangement or organization: *He's new to the office and doesn't know the set-up yet.* | *He and his wife live in different houses – it's a very strange set-up.* **2** *infml* an arrangement made secretly in advance in order to trick someone: *When the photographer suddenly walked in just as he was getting into bed with the girl, he realized it was a set-up.* –see also SET **up** (6)

Seu·rat /ˈsɜːrɑː‖sʊˈrɑː/, **Georges** /ʒɔːʒ‖ʒɔːrʒ/ (1859–91) a French painter who developed the method of POINTILLISM (=painting with small dots of pure colour)

Seuss /zjuːs/, **Dr** (1904–) an American writer whose funny stories, poems, and pictures are very popular with young children, and include *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

sev·en /ˈsevən/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 7 –see TABLE 1; see also **at sixes and sevens** (SIX) **–-enth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

seven ag·es of man /ˌ·· ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+P] seven different stages of a person's life from being a baby to being an old person. This idea is known from Shakespeare's play *As You Like It.*

Seven Dead·ly Sins /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*+P] according to the Christian church in the Middle Ages, the seven ways of behaving very badly. The sins are pride, LECHERY (=continual searching for sexual pleasure), ENVY (=the feeling one has towards someone who has possessions one would like to have), anger, COVETOUSNESS (=wanting things one does not possess), GLUTTONY (=eating too much), and SLOTH (=being lazy).

Seven Dwarfs /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+P] the band of small men in the story *Snow White.* In the Walt Disney film of the story their names were Doc, Grumpy, Sleepy, Bashful, Happy, Sneezy, and Dopey.

7-E·le·ven /ˌsevən ɪˈlevən/ (any branch of) a chain of American shops that sell food, drinks, magazines, and common things used in the home. They are slightly more expensive than other shops but are open long hours, sometimes 24 hours a day, and are usu. found in busy areas where they are convenient for many people. There are a few in Britain.

747 /ˌsevən fɔː ˈsevən‖-fɔːr-/ *n* a large plane, a JUMBO JET

seven-league boots /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [P] a pair of boots belonging to an OGRE in a fairy story, which could travel a great distance at each step

seven seas /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*+P] all the seas and oceans of the world: *He* **sailed the seven seas** *looking for adventure.*

sev·en·teen /ˌsevənˈtiːn◂/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 17 –see TABLE 1, **–-teenth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

seventh day /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ [*the*] the day which, according to the Bible, God set aside as a day of rest; the SABBATH

Seventh-Day Ad·vent·ist /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ *n* a person belonging to branch of PROTESTANTISM whose members believe that Christ will return to Earth in the near future, and who take Saturday rather than Sunday as their religious day of rest

seventh heav·en /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [(**in**) U] *infml humor* a state in which one is completely happy; BLISS: *He's in the/his seventh heaven when he's watching football.*

737 /ˌsevən θriː ˈsevən/ *n* a passenger plane made by the Boeing Corporation

sev·en·ties /ˈsevəntiz/ *n* **1** [*the*] also **'70s**– the 1970s (=the years from 1970 to 1979): *the admission of China to the UN in the early seventies* **2 in his/her/their seventies** aged from 70 to 79: *She was still mountain-climbing in her seventies.* **3** [*the*] the numbers from 70 to 79, esp. when used to measure temperature: *a lovely sunny day with temperatures in the seventies*

sev·en·ty /ˈsevənti/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 70 – see TABLE 1, **–-tieth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

seventy-eight, 78 /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* a record, now old-fashioned, that is played by being turned round 78 times every minute –compare FORTY-FIVE (2)

7-Up /ˌsevən ˈʌp/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* (a bottle, can, or glass of) a popular non-alcoholic CARBONATED drink which tastes of LEMON and LIME

Seven Won·ders of the World /ˌ·· ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ [*the*+P] the seven structures which were considered by MEDIEVAL and ancient writers to be the most interesting in the ancient world. The structures were the PYRAMIDS of Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the STATUE of Zeus at Olympia, the temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the MAUSOLEUM (burial-place) at Halicarnassus, the Colossus (a very large statue) at Rhodes, and the Pharos (a LIGHTHOUSE) at Alexandria.

seven-year itch /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*) S] *infml* a feeling of dissatisfaction with one's marriage that is said to develop after about seven years

Seven Years' War /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a war fought in Europe, N America, and India between 1756 and 1763. The war was about French and English colonies (COLONY), and also Austria and Prussia wanting to control Europe. As a result of the war, France lost most of its land in India and N America to Britain, and Prussia became a leading European power under Frederick II.

sev·er /ˈsevə^{r}/ *v fml* **1** [T] **a** to divide into usu. two parts, esp. by cutting: *a severed artery* **b** [(**from**)] to separate, esp. by violent cutting: *His arm was severed from his body in the accident.* **2** [T] to bring to an end (a relationship, etc.); break off: *We have severed all diplomatic relations with that country.* | *The new director wants to sever all ties with our sister company.* **3** [I] to break: *The rope severed and he fell.* **–~ance** *n* [C;U (**of**)] : *The border incidents led to (a) severance of relations between the two countries.* –see also SEVERANCE PAY

sev·er·al[1] /ˈsevərəl/ *determiner, pron* more than a few but not very many; some: *I go there several times each year.* | *Several newspapers published the story.* | *The damage will cost several thousand pounds to repair.* | *Several of the prisoners said they had been badly treated.*

several[2] *adj* [A *no comp.*] *lit or fml* separate; different; RESPECTIVE: *They shook hands and went their several ways.* **–~ly** *adv* : *Shall we consider these questions severally, or all together?*

severance pay /ˈ··· ·/ *n* [U] money paid by a company to one of their workers losing their job through no fault of their own, esp. when the job is no longer necessary because of reorganization in the company

se·vere /sɪˈvɪə^{r}/ *adj* **1** causing serious harm, pain, worry, or discomfort: *She received severe head injuries in the accident.* | *She was in severe pain.* | *the severest* (=coldest)

winter for ten years | The bad harvests led to severe food shortages. | This is a severe setback for the government.| The rejection came as a severe blow to his pride. **2** not kind or gentle in treatment; not allowing failure or change in rules, standards, etc.; STERN; STRICT: *She had a severe look on her face. | severe discipline | a severe judge | Don't be too severe on him – he couldn't help it.* –compare MILD **3** likely to cause failure or show up weakness; difficult: *Competition for the job is very severe. | The underwater trials will provide the severest test yet of the engine's capabilities.* **4** expressing a strongly unfavourable judgment: *severe criticism* **5** completely plain and without decoration; AUSTERE: *the severe beauty of a simple church building* –~**ly** *adv* : *severely disabled* –-**verity** /sɪ'verɪti/ *n* [C;U] : *At first we didn't realize the severity of her wounds. | "Of course you can't leave the room," he said with some severity.*

Sev·ern /'sevən‖-vərn/ [*the*] a river of S Wales and SW England, flowing from the Welsh mountains to the Bristol Channel

Severn Bore /ˌ·· '·/ [*the*] a large, moving wave of water which appears from time to time in the River Severn and moves away from the sea

Severn Bridge /ˌ·· '·/ [*the*] a SUSPENSION BRIDGE, opened in 1966, which carries the M4 MOTORWAY over the River Severn, joining SW England with S Wales

Severn Trent /ˌ·· '·/ a water company in central England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses, and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

Se·ville /sə'vɪl/ a city in SW Spain, said to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and famous for its historical buildings, esp. the alcazar (castle) built by the MOORS who held Seville between 712 and 1248

Seville or·ange /·ˌ· '··/ *n* a bitter variety of orange which is used for making MARMALADE

sew /səʊ/ *v* **sewed, sewn** /səʊn/ also **sewed** *AmE* [I;T+*obj* +*adv*/*prep*] to join or fasten (esp. cloth) by stitches made with thread; make or mend (esp. pieces of clothing) with needle and thread: *They learnt to sew at school. | Would you sew on this button/sew this button onto my shirt?*

sew sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to close or repair by sewing: *Will you sew up this hole in my trousers?* **2** *infml* to settle satisfactorily: *We should have the whole deal sewn up by the end of the week.* **3** *infml* to put into one's control; make sure of winning or gaining: *With such a big lead in the opinion polls, they've really got the election sewn up.*

sew·age /'sjuːɪdʒ, 'suː-‖'suː-/ *n* [U] the waste material and water carried in sewers: *The city needs a new* **sewage disposal** *system. | a* **sewage farm** (=a place where sewage is treated ready to be got rid of)

Sew·ard /'sjuːəd‖-ərd/, **William Henry** (1801–72) an American government leader who served under President Lincoln and President Johnson, and is most remembered for the buying of Alaska, which at the time was called **Seward's folly**

Sew·ell /'sjuːəl‖'suː-/, **An·na** /'ænə/ (1820–78) an English writer known for her children's book *Black Beauty*, about a horse

sew·er /'sjuːəʳ, 'suːəʳ‖'suːər/ *n* an artificial passage or large pipe under the ground for carrying away water and waste material from the human body to a place where they can be got rid of

sew·er·age /'sjuːərɪdʒ, 'suː-‖'suː-/ *n* [U] the (system of) removing and dealing with waste matter and water through sewers: *Our town has a modern sewerage system.*

sew·ing /'səʊɪŋ/ *n* [U] work that has been or is to be sewn: *She put her sewing away in the basket.*

sewing ma·chine /'·· ·ˌ·/ *n* a machine for stitching material, worked by hand or by electricity

sex[1] /seks/ *n* **1** [U] the condition of being either male or female: *What sex is this fish? | In the space marked "sex", put an "M" for male or an "F" for female.* **2** [C] the set of all male or female people: *the male sex | the opposite sex | There are members of both sexes in the team. | a single-sex club* **3** [U] SEXUAL INTERCOURSE: *Do you think sex outside marriage is always wrong? | The couple went for therapy because they hadn't* **had sex** *(***with** *one another) for years.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Sex is seen as an accepted part of being married. In the past sex between people who were not married was seen as wrong. Sex before or outside marriage is now very common, although some people, esp. people who are religious, still think it is wrong.◄

4 [U] activity connected with (and including) this act: *There's a lot of sex and violence in this film.* | **sex education** *in schools* **5 -sexed** /sekst/ having the stated amount of sexual desire: *highly-sexed | over-sexed* –see also FAIR SEX, GENTLE SEX

sex[2] *v* [T] *esp. tech* to find out whether (esp. an animal) is male or female: *His job is sexing day-old chickens.*

sex·a·ge·nar·i·an /ˌseksədʒɪ'neəriən/ *n* a person who is between 60 and 69 years old

Sex·a·ges·i·ma /ˌseksə'dʒesɪmə/ the second Sunday before LENT

sex ap·peal /'· ·ˌ·/ *n* [U] the power of being sexually exciting to other people; attractiveness to someone of the opposite sex: *She's got a lot of sex appeal.*

sex change /'· ˌ·/ *n* a medical treatment or operation which changes a person's body so that they look like a person of the opposite sex: *John has had a sex change and has taken the name Janine.*

Sex Di·scrim·i·na·tion Act /ˌ· ···'·· ˌ·/ [*the*] a British law passed in 1975 to prevent **sex discrimination** (=unfair treatment of a person because they are of a particular sex) esp. in matters of employment and education. Sexual discrimination is usu. against women.

sex ed·u·ca·tion /'· ··ˌ··/ *n* [U] education in the physical processes and emotions involved in sex between humans. In Britain and the US this is taught to children in school.

sex·is·m /'seksɪzəm/ *n* [U] the belief that one sex is not as good, clever, etc., as the other, esp. when this results in unfair treatment of women by men –compare CLASSISM

sex·ist /'seksɪst/ *adj, n derog* (someone, esp. a man) showing sexism: *I'm tired of his sexist remarks about women drivers! | a sexist film*

sex·less /'seksləs/ *adj* **1** *derog* sexually uninteresting; not SEXY **2** not male or female; NEUTER[1] (2)

sex life /'· ·/ *n* the sexual activities of a person: *He's been too busy with his work to have much of a sex life. | I wonder how her sex life's going?*

sex-linked /'· ·/ *adj* connected with the sex GENES of only one sex, and so passed on to children only by parents of that sex: *a sex-linked hereditary disease | Is baldness sex-linked?*

sex ob·ject /'· ˌ··/ *n* a person admired only because they are sexually attractive, and not for other qualities they may have

sex of·fend·er /'· ·ˌ··/ *n* a person who is guilty of a crime related to sex: *rapists and other sex offenders | Attacks on sex offenders in prison are on the increase.*

sex·ol·o·gy /sek'sɒlədʒi‖-'sɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of sexual behaviour, esp. among human beings –-**gist** *n*

sex or·gan /'· ˌ··/ *n* a part of the body concerned with the producing of children, such as the PENIS, VAGINA, or WOMB

Sex Pis·tols /'· ˌ··/ a British popular music group who played PUNK ROCK. Although they existed for only a short time (1975–78), they became famous for swearing and deliberately failing to appear at concerts, as well as for their loud music with its offensive words. The best-known members of the group were Johnny Rotten and Sid Vicious.

sex·ploi·ta·tion /ˌseksplɔɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] *infml derog* the use of sex or sexual activity to make money, esp. in films, magazines, etc.: *a sexploitation movie*

sex·pot /'sekspɒt‖-pɑːt/ *n infml humor* (often considered offensive by women) a sexy woman

sex shop /'· ˌ·/ *esp. BrE‖usu.* **adult bookstore** *AmE– n* a shop selling goods (such as PORNOGRAPHY) related to sex and sexual practices

sex sym·bol /'· ˌ··/ *n* a person who represents the idea of sex to the public: *sex symbols such as Marilyn Monroe or Madonna*

sex·tant /'sekstənt/ *n* an instrument for measuring angles between stars so that one can calculate the position of one's ship or aircraft

sex·tet /seks'tet/ *n* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of six singers or musicians performing together **2** a piece of music for six performers —compare QUINTET, SEPTET

sex·ton /'sekstən/ *n* a person with the job of taking care of a church building and sometimes of ringing the church bell and digging graves

sex·tu·plet /sek'stju:plɨt‖-'stʌ-/ *n* any of six people born at one birth

sex·u·al /'sekʃuəl/ *adj* **1** of, connected with, or including SEXUAL INTERCOURSE or the urge for this: *sexual desires | a sexual relationship | a disease passed on by sexual contact* **2** [*no comp.*] of, between, or needing male and female: *sexual conflict | sexual reproduction* —see EROTIC (USAGE) — **~ly** *adv*: *sexually immature | sexually arousing | a sexually explicit film*

sexual a·buse /ˌsekʃuəl ə'bju:s/ *n* [U] the action of forcing people, esp. children, to take part in sexual practices: *alleged sexual abuse of children in care|of prisoners* —see ABUSE[2]

sexual di·scrim·i·na·tion /ˌ··· ·ˌ··'··/ [U] the unfair treatment of people because of their sex, usu. the unfair treatment of women. Sexual discrimination is illegal in Britain and the US, and people and companies can be taken to court if it is thought that they are guilty of sexual discrimination. —see also SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT

sexual har·ass·ment /ˌ··· '···, ˌ··· ·'··/ *n* [U] the act of annoying somebody, esp. a woman, by making remarks about sex or acting in a way which suggests a desire for sex in a situation where this is not suitable or welcome behaviour, esp. at work: *sexual harassment of woman at work*

sexual in·ter·course /ˌ··· '···/ also **intercourse**— *n* [U] *fml* the bodily act between two humans in which the sex organs are brought together, either to make a baby, or for pleasure

sex·u·al·i·ty /ˌsekʃu'ælɨti/ *n* [U] interest in, the expression of, or the ability to take part in sexual activity

sexually trans·mit·ted dis·ease /ˌ···· ·ˌ·· ·'·/ also **STD**— *n* a disease which is passed through sexual intercourse, such as AIDS, HERPES, or GONORRHEA and SYPHILIS, often called VENEREAL DISEASES. Some STDs are treatable if found early enough: *an STD clinic*

sex·y /'seksi/ *adj infml apprec* **1** sexually exciting: *sexy girls|pictures|underwear* —see EROTIC (USAGE) **2** up to date and attracting a lot of interest: *Robotics seems to be a sexy subject at the moment.* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

Sey·chelles /seɪ'ʃelz/ [*the*+P] a country (official name, the Republic of Seychelles) made up of around 85 islands in the Indian Ocean, to the E of Kenya; capital Victoria; population 67,000 (1989) —**Seychellois** /ˌseɪʃel'wɑ:◂/ *adj*

SF /ˌes 'ef/ *abbrev. for:* SCIENCE FICTION

S4C /ˌes fɔ: 'si:‖-fɔ:r-/ a Welsh language television CHANNEL

Sgt *written abbrev. for:* SERGEANT

sh, shh /ʃ/ *interj* (used for demanding silence or less noise): *Sh! You'll wake the baby!* —see also SHUSH

shab·by /'ʃæbi/ *adj derog* **1** untidy and of low quality because of long use or lack of care: *a shabby old hat | a shabby bed-sitter* **2** (of a person) wearing shabby clothes: *a shabby old tramp* **3** ungenerous; dishonourable; unfair: *What a shabby trick, driving off and leaving me to walk home! | shabby treatment* —**-bily** *adv* —**-biness** *n* [U]

Sha·bu·oth /ʃə'vu:əs‖-əʊt, -əʊθ/ also **Feast of Weeks**— a Jewish holiday to remember the occasion when the Ten Commandments were made known to Moses on Mount Sinai

shack[1] /ʃæk/ *n* a small roughly built house or hut

shack[2] *v*

shack up *phr v* [I (**with,** TOGETHER)] *infml, esp. derog* (of a person, or man and woman) to live together while unmarried: *She's shacking up with her boyfriend.*

shack·le[1] /'ʃækəl/ *n* something, esp. joined metal rings, for fastening the arms or legs to each other or to something else, so as to prevent movement: *The prisoners were kept in shackles.* | (fig.) *Our people must throw off the shackles of slavery and seize their independence.*

shackle[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *esp. lit* to tie up (as if) with shackles: *His hands were shackled together.* | *We are shackled by old customs.*

shad /ʃæd/ *n* **shad** a north Atlantic fish used for food

shade[1] /ʃeɪd/ *n* **1** [(*the*) U] slight darkness or shelter from direct light, esp. from sunlight outdoors, made by something blocking it: *I'm too hot in the sun; let's get into the shade. | They were sitting in the shade of a tree|a wall. | There was no shade to be found in the desert. | The temperature was 32°* **in the shade.** (=outdoors but not measured in direct sunlight) —see USAGE **2** [C] (*often in comb.*) something that keeps out light or its full brightness: *a green eyeshade | a lampshade* **3** [U] representation of shadow or darkness in a picture, painting, etc.: *This artist uses* **light and shade** *to good effect.* **4** [C] a degree or variety of colour: *It was painted in various shades of blue.* **5** [C+**of**] a slight difference in degree; NUANCE: *This word has several* **shades of meaning.** | *There are different shades of opinion within the party.* **6** [S] (often before adjectives or adverbs) a little bit: *That music is just a shade too loud. | I was a shade embarrassed by their personal questions.* **7** [C] *lit* the spirit of a dead person; GHOST **8 put in(to) the shade** *infml* to cause to seem much less important by comparison: *Their splendid present really put my poor little contribution in the shade.* **9 made in the shade** *AmE infml* (an expression used when someone/something is sure to succeed, or is already very successful): *We* **have it made in the shade!** | *Made in the shade — we'll definitely win! | My brother's* **got it made in the shade***; he was just accepted into law school!* —see also SHADES

▷ USAGE **Shade** is any place sheltered from the sun. The dark shape made by the **shade** of something is a **shadow.**◁

shade[2] *v* **1** [T (**from**)] to shelter from direct light or heat: *She raised her hand to shade her eyes from the sun.* **2** [T (IN)] to represent the effect of shade or shadow on (an object in a picture): *The shaded-in background adds depth to the drawing.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*] to change slowly, gradually, or by slight degrees: *This is a question where right and wrong shade into one another.* (=are so close that it is hard to tell them apart) | *Its colour was a sort of blue shading off into grey.*

shades /ʃeɪdz/ *n* [P] **1** *infml for* SUNGLASSES **2** *lit* darkness: *The shades of evening were falling fast.* (=it was getting dark in the evening) **3** *AmE for* ROLLER BLIND **4 shades of** *old-fash infml* this reminds me of (something in the past): *Shades of my old father! He would have agreed with all you've said.*

shad·ing /'ʃeɪdɪŋ/ *n* [U] the process or result of filling in an area in a picture to represent darkness or less brightness

shad·ow[1] /'ʃædəʊ/ *n* **1** [U] also **shadows** *pl.*— darkness caused by the blocking of direct light, esp. sunlight: *The small window threw a patch of sunlight onto the floor, but the rest of the room was* **in shadow.** | *He walked along in the shadows hoping no one would recognize him.* **2** [C] a dark shape made on a surface by something between the surface and direct light: *As the sun set, the shadows lengthened. | The tree* **cast its shadow** (=produced the dark shape of a tree) *on the wall.* | (fig.) *The coming war cast a shadow* (=a feeling of future trouble) *over Europe.* | *He's such a timid chap; he's* **afraid of his own shadow.** | (fig.) *She had to live in her father's shadow.* (=her father's power or fame were so great that people did not notice her) —see SHADE[1] (USAGE) **3** [C] a dark area like a shadow: *The shadows under her eyes were caused by lack of sleep.* **4** [C] *infml* a form without substance or from which the real substance has gone: *After his illness he was only* **a shadow of his former self.** (=not nearly so strong, active, etc., as he used to be) | *She* **wore** *herself* **to a shadow** *by working too hard and not eating properly.* **5** [C] a person or thing who follows another closely: *The dog was his master's shadow.* **6** [S (**of**) *usu. in questions and negatives*] a slightest bit: *He's guilty; there's not a|the shadow of a doubt about it.* (=it is completely certain) — see also FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW, **afraid of one's own shadow** (AFRAID)

shadow[2] *v* [T] **1** to follow and watch closely, esp. secretly: *He felt he was being shadowed, but he couldn't see anyone behind him. | Our planes shadowed the Soviet fighters until they left our airspace.* **2** *lit* to make a shadow on; darken (as if) with a shadow: *Trees shadowed the pool.*

shadow[3] *adj* [A] (in Britain) belonging to the Shadow Cabinet: *the shadow foreign secretary*

shad·ow-box /ˈʃædəʊbɒks‖-bɑːks/ *v* [I] to fight with an imaginary opponent, esp. as training for BOXING —**~ing** *n* [U] : (fig.) *Let's stop this shadow-boxing* (=testing each other's opinions or intentions) *and get down to discussing the main point of dispute between us.*

Shadow Cab·i·net /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*+*sing./pl.v*] a group of politicians in the opposition party in the British Parliament who each study and speak about the work of a particular minister in the government —compare CABINET (2)

Shadows /ˈʃædəʊz/, **The** a British popular music group who were the BACKING group for the singer Cliff Richard in the 1960s, and were also successful on their own

shad·ow·y /ˈʃædəʊi/ *adj* **1** hard to see or know about clearly: *Attila the Hun is a shadowy and little-known historical figure.* **2** full of shade; in shadow: *the shadowy depths of the forest*

shad·y /ˈʃeɪdi/ *adj* **1** in or producing shade: *a shady part of the garden | a shady tree* **2** *infml derog* probably dishonest: *a shady politician | He's known to have been involved in several shady business deals.*

Shaf·fer /ˈʃæfəʳ/, **Peter** (1926–) an English writer of plays, best known for *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Equus*, and *Amadeus*

shaft[1] /ʃɑːft‖ʃæft/ *n* **1** [C] a long or thin pole to which the sharp end of a spear, ARROW, or similar weapon is fixed **2** [C] the long handle of a hammer, AXE, GOLF CLUB, or similar tool **3** [C] a bar which turns, or around which a belt or wheel turns, to pass on power or movement, esp. from an engine to something driven by the engine: *a propeller shaft | the crankshaft in a car engine* **4** [C] a long passage, usu. in an up-and-down or sloping direction: *a mine shaft | a ventilator shaft | a lift shaft* **5** [C] either of the pair of poles between which an animal is fastened to pull a vehicle **6** [C (**of**)] a beam of light coming through an opening: *A shaft of sunlight pierced the gloom.* **7** [C (**of**)] *lit* a sharply funny or hurtful remark: *No one is safe from his* **shafts of wit.** **8** [*the*+S] *AmE sl* severe and unfair treatment: *It's always me that gets the shaft. | She gave her boyfriend the shaft* (=stopped going out with him)

shaft[2] *v* [T *often pass.*] *AmE sl* to treat unfairly and very severely: *We got shafted on that sale: they tricked us into paying too much.*

Shaftes·bu·ry Av·e·nue /ˌʃɑːftsbəri ˈævɨnjuː‖ˌʃæftsberi ˈævɨnuː/ a street in central London leading NE from Piccadilly Circus. There are many West End theatres on and near Shaftesbury Avenue

shag[1] /ʃæg/ *n* **1** [U] rough strong tobacco cut into small thin pieces **2** [C] a large black seabird **3** [C] *BrE taboo sl* an act of having sex

shag[2] *v* **-gg-** [T] *BrE taboo sl* to have sex with; a word usu. used by men

shagged out /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* [F] *BrE sl* very tired; an expression usu. used by men

shag·gy /ˈʃægi/ *adj* **1** being or covered with long, uneven, and untidy hair: *a shaggy beard|dog* **2** (of hair, material, etc.) having a rough untidy surface: *a shaggy coat|mat* —**-giness** *n* [U]

shaggy-dog sto·ry /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a long joke which has an ending that is purposely weak or meaningless

shah /ʃɑː/ *n* the title held by the non-elected leaders of some Middle Eastern countries, esp. formerly in Iran —see also Mohammed Reza PAHLAVI

shake[1] /ʃeɪk/ *v* **shook** /ʃʊk/, **shaken** /ˈʃeɪkən/ **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move up and down or from side to side with quick short movements: *The house shook when the earthquake started. | She was shaking with laughter|anger|fear. | Her voice shook with emotion. | She must have had a very bad fright; she was* **shaking like a leaf.** | (fig.) *He was* **shaking in his shoes** (=very nervous) *at the thought of making a speech in public. | The medicine must be well shaken before use. | The angry crowd* **shook their fists** *at the police. | He shook salt onto his food. | She shook the sand out of her shoes.* [+*obj*+*adj*] *The dog shook himself dry. | The little boy shook himself free of his mother's grasp.* **2** [T (UP); *often pass.*] to trouble the mind or feelings of; cause to lose confidence or self-control; upset: *She was badly shaken (up) by the accident|by the bad news.* **3** [T] to make less certain; weaken; UNDERMINE: *Nothing can shake my belief in her honesty.* —see also UNSHAKEABLE **4 more than one can shake a stick at** *infml or humor* a very large number (of): *She's won more races than you can shake a stick at.* **5 shake a leg** *infml* (*usu. imperative*) to act fast; hurry: *You'd better shake a leg if you want to catch that train!* **6 shake hands** to take and hold someone's right hand in one's own for a moment, often moving it up and down, as a sign of greeting, goodbye, agreement, or pleasure: *The two men shook hands (with each other)|shook each other's hands|***shook** *each other* **by the hand.** **7 shake one's head** to move one's head from side to side in order to answer "no" or show disapproval —compare NOD[1] (1) **8 shaken, not stirred** an instruction for making a COCKTAIL (=mixed alcoholic drink), famous as a phrase said by James Bond in the stories by Ian Fleming: *a vodka Martini, shaken, not stirred* **9 shake on it** *infml* to shake hands with someone as a sign of agreement: *Let's shake on it.*

shake down *phr v infml* **1** [T] (**shake** sthg. ↔ **down**) *BrE* to take on a SHAKEDOWN (1) voyage **2** [T] (**shake** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *infml, esp. AmE* to get money from by a trick or threats **3** [T] (**shake** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *AmE infml* to search thoroughly —see also SHAKEDOWN (3) **4** [I+*adv|prep*] *BrE* to use unusual sleeping arrangements, such as not sleeping in a bed, or sleeping in a bed with someone who is not one's usual sleeping partner: *Don't give up your bed for me; I can shake down on the floor.* —see also SHAKEDOWN (4) **5** [I] *BrE old-fash* to become familiar with and able to deal with a new situation: *He's new in the office but he'll soon shake down.*

shake sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to get rid of; free oneself from; escape from: *We managed to shake off our pursuers in the crowd. | I've had a cold for two weeks now — I just can't shake it off.*

shake sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to clean (something) by opening it out and shaking it: *He took the dirty mat outside and shook it out.* —compare SHAKEOUT

shake sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** *infml* to make big changes in (an organization), esp. so as to make it more effective: *The new chairman will shake up the company.* —see also SHAKE-UP **2** to mix by shaking

shake[2] *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of shaking: *She answered "no" with a shake of the head.* **2** [C] *AmE infml for* MILK SHAKE **3** [S] *AmE infml* treatment of the stated type: *He's a dealer who'll give you a fair shake.* **4 in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)** *infml* very soon —see also SHAKES

shake·down /ˈʃeɪkdaʊn/ *n infml* **1** a last test operation of a new ship or aircraft before it is put into general use: *a shakedown voyage|flight* **2** *AmE* an act of getting money dishonestly, esp. by threats **3** *AmE* a thorough search **4** a place prepared as a bed —see also SHAKE **down**

shake·out' /ˈʃeɪkaʊt/ *n* **1** a situation in which, because of a sudden drop in general industrial or business activity, weaker firms tend to go out of business **2** a SHAKE-UP — compare SHAKE **out**

shak·er /ˈʃeɪkəʳ/ *n* a container or instrument used in shaking or shaking out esp. the stated thing: *He mixed us a drink in the cocktail shaker. | a salt shaker* —compare SIFTER

Shaker a member of a religious group, **the Shakers**, which separated from the Quakers of England in 1747 and went to the US in 1774. They were known for shaking with emotion while worshipping. Their numbers decreased after the mid-1800s, largely because the true Shakers believed in being CELIBATE (=not having sex) and therefore had no children. Today, the Shakers are remembered esp. for their simple and attractive furniture-making.

shakes /ʃeɪks/ *n infml* **1** [*the*+P] nervous shaking of the body from disease, fear, habitual drinking of alcohol, etc.: *I began to get the shakes just thinking about the examination.* **2 no great shakes (as|at)** not very good, skilful, effective, etc.: *He's no great shakes as a piano player, but he can sing well.*

Shakes·peare /ˈʃeɪkspɪəʳ/, **William** (1564–1616) an English writer of plays, one

William Shakespeare



of the most famous ever, born in Stratford-upon-Avon in England. Among the most famous of his plays are the tragedies (TRAGEDY) of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*, the comedies (COMEDY) of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Twelfth Night*, and the HISTORICAL plays *Richard III* and *Henry V*. Many well-known expressions come from Shakespeare, and his work is famous for its sensitive view of human nature and for the richness of its language. Shakespeare also wrote some very good poetry, esp. the *Sonnets*, and worked as an actor at the Globe Theatre in London. He married Anne Hathaway in 1582 and they had three children. He is buried at Stratford-on-Avon, and houses connected with him and his family can be visited there, as well as the **Royal Shakespeare Theatre** where his plays are regularly performed. —see colour picture on page 1146 —**Shakespearean** /ʃeɪkˈspɪəriən/ *adj*: *a Shakespearean actor*

shake-up /ˈ· ·/ also **shakeout**— *n infml* a rearrangement of an organization: *There's been a government shake-up, with ministers losing their jobs.* —see also SHAKE **up** (1)

shak·y /ˈʃeɪki/ *adj infml* **1** shaking or unsteady, esp. from nervousness, weakness, or old age: *I'm still a bit shaky after that bout of flu.* **2** not solid or firm; weak and easily shaken; undependable: *This ladder's rather shaky.* | *The team got off to a pretty shaky start this season, losing their first three matches.* | *The book puts forward such shaky arguments that they're impossible to take seriously.* —**ily** *adv* —**iness** *n* [U]

Sha·la·la /ʃəˈleɪˌlə/, **Donna** /ˈdɒnə/ (1941–) a former university official who became Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton in 1993

shale /ʃeɪl/ *n* [U] soft rock made of hardened mud or clay which divides naturally into thin sheets

shall /ʃəl; *strong* ʃæl/ *v 3rd person sing.* **shall,** *negative short form* **shan't** [*modal+to-v*] **1** (sometimes used with **I** and **we** to express the future tense): *We shall be away next week.* (compare *They will be away next week.*) | *I shall have completed my report by Friday.* **2** (used esp. with **I** and **we**, in questions or offers that ask the hearer to decide): *I'll tell her we'll come, shall I?* (=is that agreed?) | *What shall I do about it?* | *Shall I* (=do you want me to) *open the window?* **3** *fml* (used esp. in official writing to show a promise, command, or law): *Payment shall be made by cheque.* —see also SHALT, SHOULD; see NOT (USAGE) and LANGUAGE NOTE: Modals

▷ USAGE In ordinary modern speech **will,** or the short form **'ll,** is used more often than **shall** in the first meaning.◁

shal·lot /ʃəˈlɒt‖ʃəˈlɑːt/ *n* a vegetable like a small onion

shal·low[1] /ˈʃæləʊ/ *adj* **1** not deep; not far from top to bottom: *a shallow river|dish|grave* | *He got in at the shallow end of the swimming pool.* **2** *derog* lacking deep or serious thinking; SUPERFICIAL: *shallow arguments* | *a shallow thinker whose opinions aren't worth much* **3** (of breathing) not coming from or reaching very low in the chest —compare DEEP[1] (3) —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

shallow[2] *v* [I] *fml* to become SHALLOW[1] (1): *The river shallows at this point.*

shal·lows /ˈʃæləʊz/ *n* [(*the*) P] a shallow area in a body of water: *the shallows near the mouth of the river*

sha·lom /ʃæˈlɒm‖ʃæˈləʊm/ *interj* (a Jewish greeting or goodbye)

shalt /ʃəlt; *strong* ʃælt/ *v* **thou shalt** *old use or bibl* you shall

sham[1] /ʃæm/ *n* **1** [S] something that is not what it appears, pretends, or is claimed to be; piece of deceit: *The agreement was a sham; neither side intended to keep to it.* **2** [U] falseness; PRETENCE: *I'm a blunt straightforward man; I hate sham.*

sham[2] *adj* [A] not what it appears, pretends, or is claimed to be; IMITATION: *sham jewellery|compassion*

sham[3] *v* **-mm-** [I;T] to put on the false appearance of (a disease, condition, feeling, etc.): *He isn't really ill; he's only shamming.*

sha·man /ˈʃɑːmən/ *n* someone who (it is believed) works in the world of spirits while in a TRANCE (=dreamlike state) for the purpose of curing the sick and gaining important knowledge, and who often has a knowledge of how to use plants, etc., for medicine —compare MEDICINE MAN, WITCH DOCTOR

sha·man·is·m /ˈʃɑːmənɪzəm/ *n* any system of belief in shamans and the world of spirits —see also SHAMAN —**-ist** *n* —**-istic** /ˌʃɑːməˈnɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

sham·a·teur /ˈʃæmətəʳ, -tʃʊəʳ, -tʃəʳ, ʃæməˈtɜːʳ/ *n BrE infml derog* a sports player who officially plays for no money but in fact receives payment —**~ism** *n* [U]

sham·ble /ˈʃæmbəl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *usu. derog* to walk awkwardly or carelessly, dragging the feet: *The old tramp shambled wearily up the path.* | *He walked with a* **shambling gait.**

sham·bles /ˈʃæmbəlz/ *n* [S] *infml* (a place or scene of) great disorder, (as if) the result of destruction; MESS (1): *After the noisy party the house was (in) a shambles.* | *She* **made a (complete) shambles of** *the accounts.*

sham·bol·ic /ʃæmˈbɒlɪk‖-ˈbɑː-/ *adj BrE infml* completely disordered or confused

shame[1] /ʃeɪm/ *n* **1** [U] a feeling of deep moral discomfort or loss of self-respect caused by consciousness of guilt, immoral behaviour, inability, or failure: *She was full of shame at her bad behaviour.* | *You may well hang your heads in shame; it was a terrible thing to do.* **2** [U *usu. in questions and negatives*] the ability to feel this: *He had no (sense of) shame and never felt guilty.* | *You mean they actually dance around on stage with no clothes on! Have they no shame?* **3** [U] loss of honour; DISGRACE: *Your bad behaviour brings shame on the whole school.* | *There's no shame in being poor.* **4** [S] an unfortunate state of affairs; something one is sorry about: *What a shame that it rained on the day of your garden party!* | *You should practise more often – it's a shame to waste such talent.* **5** (a shout used to show disapproval of a speaker): *The minister's speech brought cries of "Shame!"* **6 put someone/something to shame** to SHAME[2] (2) someone or something: *Your beautiful garden puts my few little flowers to shame.* **7 Shame on you!** You ought to be ashamed! —see also **Nice...**, **shame about the...** (PITY)

shame[2] *v* [T] **1** to bring dishonour to; DISGRACE: *Such an act of cowardice by an officer shames his whole regiment.* **2** to show to be lacking in quality, ability, etc., by comparison: *They have a record of industrial peace which shames other companies.* **3** to cause to feel shame: *It shames me to say it, but I told a lie.* **4** [+*obj*+**into, out of**] to force or urge by causing feelings of shame: *I tried to shame her into voting in the election, but she has no sense of public duty.*

shame·faced /ˌʃeɪmˈfeɪst◂/ *n* showing suitable shame or knowledge that one has acted wrongly: *a shamefaced apology* | *He had the grace to look shamefaced about it.* —**~ly** /-ˈfeɪsɨdli/ *adv*

shame·ful /ˈʃeɪmfəl/ *adj* deserving blame; which one ought to be ashamed of: *a shameful lack of knowledge about current affairs* | *their shameful treatment of political prisoners* | *the football team's shameful performance in the cup final* —**~ly** *adv*: *Her education had been shamefully neglected.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

shame·less /ˈʃeɪmləs/ *adj* **1** (of a person) unable to feel suitably ashamed, esp. in matters of sex or morals: *a shameless woman|liar* **2** done without shame; greatly and openly immoral: *shameless deception|disloyalty* | *a shameless distortion of the truth* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

Sha·mir /ʃæˈmɪəʳ/, **Yitz·hak** /ˈjɪtsɑːk/ (1915–) a PRIME MINISTER of Israel (1983–84 and 1986–92)

sham·my /ˈʃæmi/ *n* [C;U] CHAMOIS[2]

sham·poo[1] /ʃæmˈpuː/ *n* **-poos** **1** [C;U] a usu. liquid soaplike product used for washing the hair, CARPETS, etc.: *a medicated shampoo for dandruff* **2** [C] an act of shampooing: *Give it another shampoo.*

shampoo[2] *v* **-pooed,** *present participle* **-pooing** [T] to wash with shampoo

sham·rock /ˈʃæmrɒk ‖ -rɑːk/ *n* [U] a plant, esp. a type of CLOVER, that has three leaves on each stem and is used as the national sign of Ireland

shamrock



sha·mus /ˈʃɑːməs/ *n AmE sl old-fash* PRIVATE DETECTIVE

shan·dy /ˈʃændi/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* a drink made from a mixture of beer and GINGER BEER or LEMONADE (1)

shang·hai /ˌʃæŋˈhaɪ/ *v* [T (**into**)] **1** *infml* to trick or force into doing something unwillingly: *We were shanghaied into agreeing to their demands.* **2** (esp. in former times) to make (someone) unconscious by hitting them or by alcoholic drink and then put them on a ship to serve as a sailor

Shang·hai a city in E China, in Jiangsu PROVINCE but independent of it. Shanghai is a port and an industrial centre.

Shan·gri-La /ˌʃæŋgri ˈlɑː/ a distant beautiful imaginary place where everything is pleasant: *I found the island idyllic, and on my return to New York felt that I had turned down Shangri-La.*

shank /ʃæŋk/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. tech* a straight long or narrow usu. central or connecting part of something, such as **a** the smooth part of a SCREW **b** the smooth end of a DRILL where it is held to be turned **c** the long straight central part of an ANCHOR[1] **2** [C] a part which sticks out at the back of a metal or leather button, by which it can be sewn onto a garment **3** [C;U] (a piece of) meat cut from the leg of an animal **4** [C *usu. pl.*] *old use* the part of the leg between the knee and ankle —see picture at HORSE

Shan·khill Road /ˌʃæŋkɪl ˈrəʊd/ [*the*] a road in Belfast, known because of the violent acts which have taken place there

shanks's po·ny /ˌʃæŋksˌz ˈpəʊni/ *n* [U] *old-fash BrE infml, usu. humor* one's own legs as a method of going from place to place; walking

Shan·non /ˈʃænən/ [*the*] a river in the Republic of Ireland, flowing into the Atlantic at Limerick

Shannon Air·port /ˌ·· ˈ··/ an airport for TRANSATLANTIC (2) flights, near **Ennis** in COUNTY Clare in the Republic of Ireland

shan't /ʃɑːnt‖ʃænt/ *v esp. BrE short for:* shall not: *Shall I go, or shan't I?*

shan·tung /ʃænˈtʌŋ/ *n* [U] a silk cloth with a slightly rough surface

shan·ty[1] /ˈʃænti/ *n* a small roughly built usu. wooden or metal house

shanty[2] *n* a song formerly sung by sailors as they did their work

shan·ty·town /ˈʃænti ˌtaʊn/ *n* (a part of) a town made up of roughly built houses of thin metal, wood, etc., where poor people live —compare SLUM

shape[1] /ʃeɪp/ *n* **1** [C;U] the outer form of something, by which it can be seen (or felt) to be different from something else: *The sign was triangular in shape.* | *a cake in the shape of a heart* (=heart-shaped) | *We saw a vague shape through the mist but we couldn't see who it was.* | *Houses* **come** (=are built) **in** *all* **shapes and sizes.** **2** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the general character, form, or nature of something; COMPLEXION: *Who was responsible for the final shape of the report?* | *These events have changed the whole shape of British politics|society.* | *It looks as though this interactive form of advertising is* **the shape of things to come**. (=the way things will be in the future) **3** [S] a particular form or way of appearing; GUISE: *I'm not looking for trouble* **in any shape or form.** (=of any kind) | *I hadn't enough money to pay for my ticket, but rescue came* **in the shape of** (=and it was) *my neighbour, who lent me £5.* **4** *infml* **in|into|out of shape**: **a** in|into|out of (proper) condition, health, effectiveness, etc.: *Our garden is in good shape after all the rain.* | *Let's try and get this room into shape before mother gets home.* | *She's been working too hard and she's in pretty bad shape.* (=unwell, unfit, etc.) **b** esp. AmE having|not having a healthy body: *I used to be in much better shape and could run five miles.* | *I must get into shape before bikini season!* **5 knock|lick into shape** *infml* to bring to the proper or desired standard of skill, performance, etc.: *There are a lot of new players in the team, but we'll soon lick them into shape.* **6 take shape** to develop towards completion: *An idea slowly took shape in his mind.* —~**less** *adj* : *a shapeless old sweater* —~**lessly** *adv* —~**lessness** *n* [U]

shape[2] *v* [T] **1** to make or form, esp. to give a particular shape or form to: *You'll have to shape the clay before it dries out.* [+*obj*+**from**] *The bird shaped its nest from mud and sticks.* [+*obj*+**into**] *The bird shaped the mud and sticks into a nest.* **2** to influence and fix the course or form of: *Childhood experiences that shape a person's character.* | *moral dilemmas which shaped his philosophy* **3** [*usu. pass.*] to make (a piece of clothing) fit the body closely: *This dress is shaped at the waist and doesn't need a belt.*

shape up *phr v* [I] **1** to develop well or in the stated way: *The new students seem to be shaping up quite nicely.* **2** (usu. used threateningly or angrily) to begin to perform more effectively, behave better, etc.: *You'd better shape up, young man, if you want to get anywhere in this job!*

SHAPE /ʃeɪp/ Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; the place in Belgium where the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, one of the military commanders of NATO, is based

shaped /ʃeɪpt/ *adj* (*often in comb.*) having the stated shape: *a cloud shaped like a dragon* | *a heart-shaped cake*

shape·ly /ˈʃeɪpli/ *adj fml apprec* (esp. of a woman's body or legs) having an attractive shape; WELL-PROPORTIONED —**shapeliness** *n* [U]

shard /ʃɑːd‖ʃɑːrd/ also **sherd**– *n* a broken piece of a glass or clay bowl, cup, etc.

share[1] /ʃeəʳ/ *n* **1** [S (**in, of**)] the part belonging to, owed to, or done by a particular person: *my share of the cake|bill* | *If you want a share in|of the pay, you'll have to do* **your fair share** *of the work.* | *We still have the largest market share, but the competition is growing fast.* | *I had no share in* (=was not one of the people who made) *this decision.* | *The prime minister has* **come in for her (full) share of** (=has rightly received much) *criticism over the question of unemployment.* | *I've had more than my fair share* (=a lot) *of troubles in my time.* | *Don't you pay for all this – let's* **go shares.** (=divide the cost between us) —see also TIMESHARE **2** [C (**in**)] any of the equal parts into which the ownership of a company can be divided, which are offered for sale to the public: *He told his stockbroker to sell his shares in Allied Chemicals.* | *She's got all her money in* **stocks and shares.** | *This year the company paid a dividend of 50p per share.* | *Share prices rose in heavy trading.* —compare STOCK[1] (3); see also ORDINARY SHARE, PREFERENCE SHARE

share[2] *v* **1** [I (**in**);T (**with, among, between**)] to have, use, pay, or take part in (something) with others or among a group, rather than singly: *We haven't enough books for everyone; some of you will have to share.* (=use one book for two or more people) | *Children should be taught to share their toys.* (=allow other children to use them) | *I have to share the bathroom with the other tenants.* | *We shared the cost of the meal.* | *We all share (in) the responsibility for these terrible events.* | *I think we all share your concern about this matter.* (=we are all worried about it) | *Don't keep them all to yourselves; we must* **share and share alike.** (=share things between us equally) | *It's always better to share* (=tell others about) *your worries and problems.* | *a shared experience* | *shared ownership* **2** [T (OUT, **among, between**)] to divide and give out in shares: *At his death his property was shared (out) between his children.* —see also SHARE-OUT —**sharer** *n*

share[3] *n old-fash* a PLOUGHSHARE

share·crop·per /ˈʃeəˌkrɒpəʳ‖ˈʃeərˌkrɑː-/ *n esp. AmE* (esp. formerly in the southern US) a farmer who farms someone else's land (a TENANT farmer), and pays the land-owner usu. half of the crop. The farmer also owes the land-owner for a home, food, seeds, and tools, and so usu. receives very little of the crop and is very poor.

share·hold·er /ˈʃeəˌhəʊldəʳ‖ˈʃeər-/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **stockholder** *esp. AmE*– *n* an owner of SHARES[1] (2) in a business

share-out /ˈ· ·/ *n* [S (**of**)] an act of giving out shares of something: *a share-out of the stolen goods*

sha·ri·a , sheria /ʃəˈriːə/ *n* [U] a system of laws followed by Muslims

Sha·rif /ʃəˈriːf/, **O·mar** /ˈəʊmɑːʳ/ (1932–) an Egyptian-born film actor who appeared in films such as *Dr Zhivago* and *Lawrence of Arabia*

shark[1] /ʃɑːk‖ʃɑːrk/ *n* **shark** *or* **sharks** a large usu. grey fish that lives esp. in warm seas, has several rows of sharp teeth, and is often dangerous to people —see also JAWS

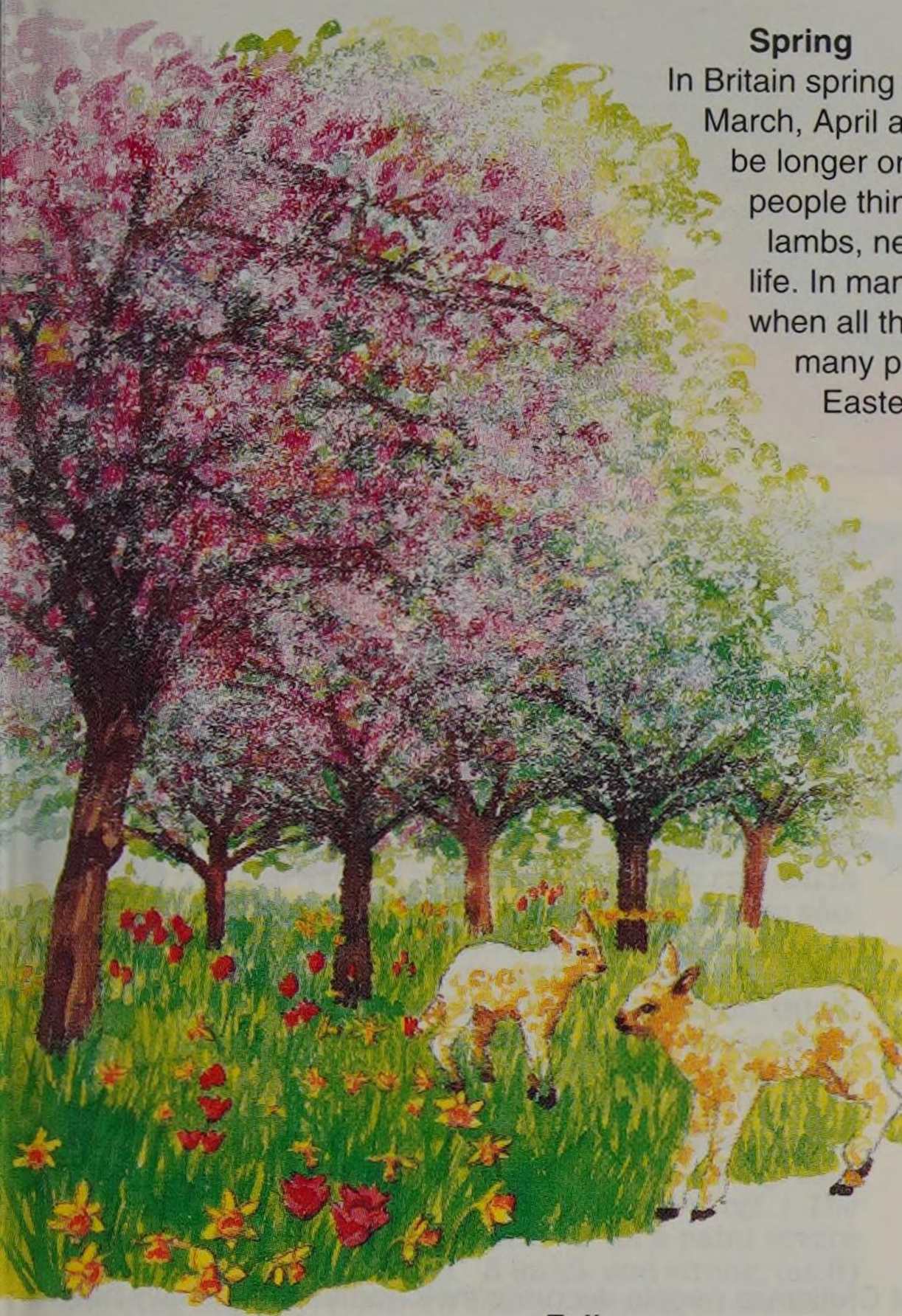
shark[2] *n infml* a person clever at getting money from others in dishonest or unpleasant ways, esp. by lending money at high rates of interest: *a loan shark*

Shar·on and Tra·cey /ˌʃærən ənd ˈtreɪsi/ *BrE derog* two female names that are used to suggest that their owners, usu. young women, are rather stupid and lazy, speak poorly, and are impolite in their way of treating other

Spring and Fall

Spring

In Britain spring is a season which lasts from March to May. In the US March, April and May are also considered spring months, but spring may be longer or shorter than this in different parts of the country. When British people think of spring they think of flowers (especially daffodils), baby lambs, new leaves on the trees and a feeling of cheerfulness and new life. In many parts of the US people associate spring with the spring thaw, when all the snow melts and the weather becomes warmer. There are many poems about spring and it is a time associated with love. Easter takes place during spring.





Easter egg

Easter bunny

Fall

In the US the fall (autumn BrE) is a long and beautiful season from September to November. American people often go to the countryside to admire the colours of the leaves, especially in New England. There are many poems about the fall and it is a time of year associated with a feeling of gentle sadness because summer has ended and winter is coming. In the fall people celebrate Halloween (in both Britain and the US), Thanksgiving (in the US only) and Bonfire Night (in Britain only).



fireworks

bonfire



witch



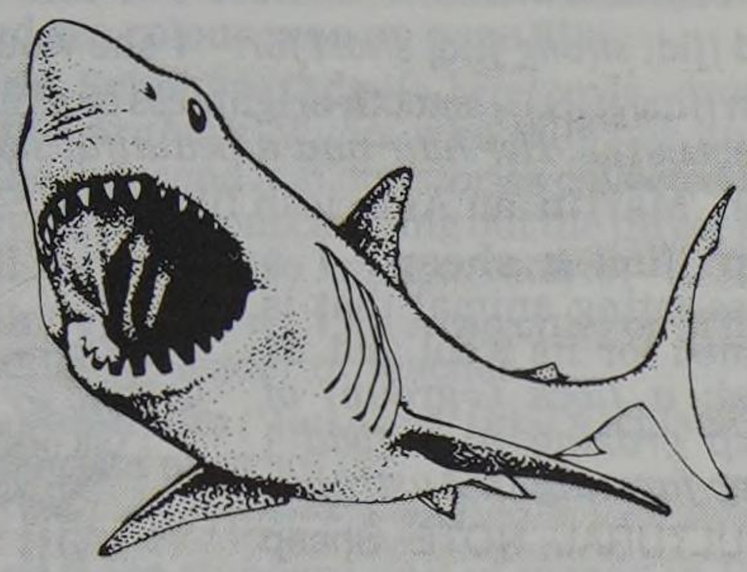
jack o'lantern

At Christmas people decorate their homes and usually have a Christmas tree with coloured balls or lights on it. They often put their presents under the tree and do not open them until Christm Day. There is a tradition that children should put a long sock, ca a Christmas stocking, at the end of their bed or by the chimney so that Santa Clau will fill it with presents. Santa Claus i supposed to visit each house on Christmas Eve by climbing down the chimney. He travels on a sleigh pulled by reindeer that can fly, including one called Rudolph who has a red nose and is the subject of a Christmas song.

skiing

ice-skating

snowman


shark

people (a phrase esp. made popular by the JOURNALIST **Keith Waterhouse** in the *Daily Mail*, writing about two girls who work in a shop): *Service with a smile is making a comeback, but Sharon and Tracey still lurk behind some shop counters.*

sharp[1] /ʃɑːp‖ʃɑːrp/ *adj* **1** having or being a thin edge or point with which it is easy to cut things or make a hole in them: *a sharp knife* | *I cut my foot on a sharp stone.* | *a sharp-pointed needle* —opposite **blunt** **2** not rounded; marked by hard lines and narrow angles: *a sharp nose* **3** having a quick change in direction; sudden: *You make a sharp right turn at the crossroads.* | *a sharp rise/fall in prices* **4** clear in shape or detail; DISTINCT: *a sharp photographic image* | *He looked rather quiet and dull, in sharp contrast to his wife, who was smartly dressed and very talkative.* **5** quick and sensitive in attention, thinking, seeing, hearing, etc.: *a sharp mind* | *sharp eyes* | *sharp questioning* | *It was very sharp of you to have noticed that.* | *The teacher kept a sharp watch on the children when they visited the zoo.* **6** causing a sensation like that of cutting, biting, or stinging: *a sharp wind/frost* | *The wine has a sharp taste; I think it's gone off.* | *The branch broke with a sharp crack.* **7** (of a pain) severe and sudden —opposite **dull** **8** quick and strong, (as if) showing urgency: *I heard a sharp knocking at the door.* **9** [(**with**)] intending or intended to hurt; angry; severe: *He was rather sharp with his secretary when she got back late from lunch.* | *That woman has a very* **sharp tongue.** | *sharp criticism* **10** [F] (in music) higher than the correct note —compare FLAT[2] (7) **11** [after *n*] (of a note in music) higher than the stated note by a SEMITONE: *a symphony in the key of G sharp* —compare FLAT[2] (8), NATURAL[1] (6) **12** *infml, sometimes derog* fashionably fine: *He's a very sharp dresser.* —see also SHORT SHARP SHOCK —~**ly** *adv* : *He replied very sharply when I criticized him.* | *Opinions are sharply divided.* | *Prices have risen sharply.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sharp[2] *adv* **1** exactly at the stated time: *The meeting starts at 3 o'clock sharp; don't be late!* **2** sharply, esp. suddenly and quickly: *You turn sharp right at the crossroads.* **3** (in music) higher than the correct note: *You're singing sharp.* —compare FLAT[3] (2); see also **look sharp** (LOOK[1] (16))

sharp[3] *n* (in music) **1** a SHARP[1] (11) note **2** the sign # for this —compare FLAT[1] (5), NATURAL[2] (2)

Sharp a Japanese company making electronic equipment such as MICROWAVES and computers

Sharp, Ce·cil /ˈsesl̩/ (1859–1924) an English FOLK musician. He started the English Folk Dance Society in 1911 and is famous for having saved a great deal of folk music from being forgotten.

sharp·en /ˈʃɑːpən‖ˈʃɑːr-/ *v* [I;T] to become or make sharp or sharper: *He sharpened his pencil with a knife.* | *Her voice sharpened as she became impatient.*

sharp end /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*the*+S (**of**)] *infml* the part of a job, organization, etc., where the most severe problems are experienced

sharp·en·er /ˈʃɑːpənəʳ, ˈʃɑːpnəʳ‖ˈʃɑːr-/ *n* a machine or tool for sharpening knives, pencils, etc.

Sharpe·ville /ˈʃɑːpvɪl‖ˈʃɑːrp-/ a town near Johannesburg, South Africa, where on 21 March 1960 police shot dead 69 black people who were protesting against Apartheid

Sharpe·ville Six /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a group of black South Africans who were going to be hanged for causing the death of a Sharpeville COUNCILLOR in 1984. They were saved from hanging in 1988, in a decision that had been widely discussed around the world.

sharp-eyed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having good sight in the eyes, and being quick to use it: *You'd have to be very sharp-eyed to find any mistakes in her spelling.*

sharp·ish /ˈʃɑːpɪʃ‖ˈʃɑːr-/ *adv BrE infml* quickly: *We'd better get moving pretty sharpish if we want to catch that bus.*

Shar·ples /ˈʃɑːpəlz‖ˈʃɑːr-/, **E·na** /ˈiːnə/ a character in the British television SOAP OPERA *Coronation Street*, played by Violet Carson (1905–83) —see also CORONATION STREET

sharp prac·tice /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] behaviour or a trick in business that is dishonest but not quite illegal

sharp·shoot·er /ˈʃɑːpˌʃuːtəʳ‖ˈʃɑːrp-/ *n* a person skilful in shooting, esp. one with the job of firing exactly aimed single shots at an enemy

shat /ʃæt/ *past tense & participle of* SHIT[1]

Shat·ner /ˈʃætnəʳ/, **William** (1931–) a Canadian actor known esp. for playing the part of Captain Kirk in the television SERIES *Star Trek*

Shatt-al-Ar·ab /ˌʃæt æl ˈærəb/ [*the*] a river ESTUARY in SE Iraq, formed by the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, and flowing SE to the Persian Gulf

shat·ter /ˈʃætəʳ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to break suddenly into very small pieces, usu. as a result of force or violence: *I dropped the mirror on the floor and it shattered.* | *A stone shattered the window.* | (fig.) *Hopes of reaching an agreement were shattered today.* —compare SPLINTER[2] (1) **2** [T *usu. pass.*] *infml* to shock; have a strong effect on the feelings of: *We were shattered to hear of her sudden death.* | *shattering news* **3** [T *usu. pass.*] *infml, esp. BrE* to cause to be very tired and weak: *I feel completely shattered after that run up the hill!*

shat·ter·proof /ˈʃætəpruːf‖-ər-/ *adj* made so as not to shatter: *a shatterproof glass windscreen*

shave[1] /ʃeɪv/ *v* **1** [I;T (OFF)] to cut off (a beard or face hair) close to the skin with a RAZOR or shaver: *I cut myself while I was shaving.* | *I've decided to shave off my beard.* **2** [T] to cut off hair from the face of: *The barber shaved him.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*;T] to cut all the hair from (a part of the body): *She shaves her legs and under her arms.* **4** [T (OFF)] to cut off (very thin pieces) from (a surface): *I shaved (a few millimetres from) the bottom of the door to make it close properly.* | (fig.) *The production costs are very high — can't you shave anything off the price?* | *She shaved a few milliseconds off her previous lap record.* **5** [T] *infml* to come close to or touch in passing: *The car just shaved the wall while it was cornering.*

shave[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] an act or result of shaving: *I'm just going to have a shave.* | *You can't get a good* **close shave** (=that cuts the hair close to the surface of the skin) *with an electric shaver.* | *a* **wet shave** (=with shaving cream, etc.) —see also CLOSE SHAVE

shav·en /ˈʃeɪvən/ *adj* with all the hair shaved off: *his shaven head* —see also CLEAN-SHAVEN, UNSHAVEN

shav·er /ˈʃeɪvəʳ/ *n* a tool for shaving, esp. an electric-powered instrument for shaving hair from the face and body —compare RAZOR and see picture at RAZOR

shav·ing /ˈʃeɪvɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a very thin piece cut from a surface with a sharp blade: *a pile of wood shavings on the floor*

shaving cream /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] a mixture made mostly of soap for putting on the face, usu. with a **shaving brush,** to keep the face hair soft and wet while shaving (SHAVE[1])

shaving foam /ˈ·· · / *n* [U] SHAVING CREAM, usu. from an AEROSOL

Sha·vu·ot /ʃəˈvuːəs‖-əʊt, -əʊθ/ *n* [U] see PENTECOST (1)

Shaw /ʃɔː/, **Ar·tie** /ˈɑːti‖ˈɑːr-/ (1910–) an American JAZZ musician, CLARINET player, and bandleader whose bands were among the most popular in the late 1930s and 1940s

Shaw, George Ber·nard /dʒɔːdʒ ˈbɜːnəd‖dʒɔːrdʒ ˈbɜːrnərd/ (1856–1950) an Irish writer and CRITIC, famous for his writings on Socialism and for his clever plays which point out faults in moral attitudes and in society. His best-known play is *Pygmalion*.

shawl /ʃɔːl/ *n* a piece of usu. soft decorated cloth that can be square, TRIANGULAR, or long and narrow, for wearing over a woman's head or shoulders or wrapping round a baby

Shaw·nee /ˌʃɔːˈniː/ *n* **Shawnee** *or* **Shawnees** [C; *the* +P] (a

member of) a Native American people which lived in the central Ohio valley as hunters and farmers, until the US government moved them to Oklahoma, where they now number about 2000 —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

she[1] /ʃi; *strong* ʃi:/ *pron* (used as the subject of a sentence) **1** that female person or animal: *She's certainly a pretty girl. Who is she?* **2** (used for something thought of as female, esp. a country or a ship or other vehicle): *The liner docked yesterday, and she will spend two months being refitted.* —see HE (USAGE) **3 Who's "she"—the cat's mother?** *BrE* (a phrase to remind someone that it is considered rather impolite in Britain to talk about someone who is with you as "she" (or "he"), and that the person's name should be used instead): *"She didn't hear you." "Who's "she"—the cat's mother?" "Sorry;* Carole *didn't hear you."*

she[2] /ʃi:/ *n* [S] *infml* a female: *Is the new baby a he or a she?*

she- see WORD FORMATION

s/he *pron* (used in writing as the subject of a sentence when one wishes to include both men and women) he or she: *If any student wishes to speak to the head of department s/he should first make an appointment.*

sheaf /ʃi:f/ *n* **sheaves** /ʃi:vz/ [**(of)**] **1** a bunch of grain plants tied together, esp. as left standing in a field to dry after gathering: *sheaves of corn* **2** a collection of long or thin things held or tied together; BUNDLE: *The speaker came into the hall carrying a sheaf of notes.*

shear /ʃɪəʳ/ *v* **sheared, sheared** *or* **shorn** /ʃɔ:n‖ʃɔ:rn/ **1** [T] to cut off wool from (sheep) **2** [T] *esp. lit* to cut off (hair): *the day when her baby curls were shorn* **3** [I;T (OFF)] *tech* to break or cause (esp. a thin rod, pin, etc.) to break in half because of a sideways or twisting force: *The bolts had sheared, allowing the door to fly open.* **4 be shorn of something** *esp. lit* to have something completely removed from one: *Shorn of all real power by the new laws, the office of deputy president soon became obsolete.*

shears /ʃɪəz‖ʃɪərz/ *n* [P] **1** large scissors **2** a heavy cutting tool which works like scissors: *pruning shears* —see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at GARDEN

sheath /ʃi:θ/ *n* **sheaths** /ʃi:ðz/ **1** a close-fitting case for a knife or sword blade or the sharp part of a tool **2** *BrE* a CONDOM **3** a long close-fitting part of a plant or of an animal organ that acts as a covering **4** a sheathing

sheathe /ʃi:ð/ *v* [T] **1** to put away in a SHEATH (1): *He sheathed his sword.* **2** [**(with, in)**] to enclose in a protective outer cover: *The nuclear reactor is sheathed with lead.*

sheath·ing /'ʃi:ðɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] a protective outer cover, e.g. for a building, ship, etc.

sheath knife /'· ·/ *n* a knife with a fixed (not folding) blade for carrying in a sheath

She·ba /'ʃi:bə/, **Queen of** a wealthy ruler who visited King Solomon in a Bible story

she·bang /ʃə'bæŋ/ *n* [S] *infml, esp. AmE* affair; business; thing (esp. in the phrase **the whole shebang**)

she·been /ʃə'bi:n/ *n esp. IrE* a place where alcoholic drink is illegally sold

she·chi·ta /ʃe'hi:tɑ:/ *n* [U] the process of killing an animal for food according to Jewish law

shed[1] /ʃed/ *n* (*often in comb.*) a lightly built single-floored building, often wooden, used esp. for storing things: *a toolshed|cattle shed|garden shed* —compare HUT

shed[2] *v* **shed; *present participle* shedding** [T] **1** *esp. lit* to cause to flow out; pour out: *It's too late to change your mind now, so there's no point in shedding tears* (=crying or worrying) *over it.* | *These clues* **shed** *new* **light on** *the mystery.* (=make it clearer) | *The army brought down the government, but without* **shedding any blood.** (=without causing any killing or wounding) —see also BLOODSHED **2** (of a plant or animal) to have (its skin, leaves, hair, etc.) come off or fall out naturally: *Most trees shed their leaves in autumn.* | *Some snakes shed their skin each year.* **3** to get rid of (something not wanted or needed): *I'd like to shed a few pounds* (=become thinner) *before the summer.* | *The factory is planning to shed about a quarter of its workforce.* | *to shed one's inhibitions* **4** *BrE* (of a vehicle) to drop (a load of goods) by accident: *The road was blocked where a large lorry had shed its load.* **5** (of a surface) to keep (a liquid) from entering; REPEL: *A duck's back sheds water.*

she'd /ʃid; *strong* ʃi:d/ *short for:* **1** she would **2** she had

sheen /ʃi:n/ *n* [S;U] smooth brightness or shininess of a surface; LUSTRE: *Her hair had a beautiful sheen.*

Sheen, Martin an American film actor

sheep /ʃi:p/ *n* **sheep** **1** a grass-eating animal that is farmed for its wool and its meat: *a flock* (=group) *of sheep grazing in a field* | *sheep farming in Australia*

sheep



►CULTURAL NOTE Sheep are thought of as rather silly animals that are easily led and will follow each other without thinking about it. —see also BAA, EWE, LAMB, RAM; see MEAT (USAGE)◄

2 [*often pl.*] *derog* someone who is very easily persuaded into doing things, who obeys orders without thinking, or who acts in a particular way because others are doing so **3 the sheep from the goats** *esp. BrE* those who are good, able, successful, etc., from those who are not: *This difficult exam should* **separate/sort out the sheep from the goats.** —see also BLACK SHEEP, **count sheep** (COUNT[1] (8)), **one may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb** (HANG[1] (14))

sheep·dip /'ʃi:p,dɪp/ *n* [C;U] a chemical (used in a) bath for sheep to kill harmful insects in their wool

sheep·dog /'ʃi:pdɒg‖-dɔ:g/ *n* a dog trained to control sheep, often a COLLIE —see also OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG

sheep·ish /'ʃi:pɪʃ/ *adj* uncomfortable because one knows one has done something wrong or foolish; EMBARRASSED: *a sheepish smile* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sheep's eyes /'· ,·/ *n* [P] *infml* a silly look suggesting that one is in love: *He was* **making sheep's eyes at** *her.*

sheep·skin /'ʃi:p,skɪn/ *n* [C;U] the skin of a sheep with the wool still on, made into leather: *a sheepskin coat|rug*

sheer[1] /ʃɪəʳ/ *adj* **1** [A] pure; unmixed with anything else; nothing but: *He won by sheer luck|determination.* | *The sheer size of the country* (=the simple fact that it is so big) *causes tremendous communications problems.* | *It would be sheer folly to buy such a large car – we wouldn't be able to afford to run it.* **2** very steep; (almost) straight up and down; PERPENDICULAR: *a sheer cliff* **3** very thin, fine, light in weight, and almost transparent: *ladies' sheer stockings*

sheer[2] *adv* straight up or down: *The mountain rises sheer from the plain.*

sheer[3] *v* [I+*adv/prep*, esp. OFF, AWAY] to turn (as if) to avoid hitting something; change direction quickly: *The boat came close to the rocks and then sheered away.*

sheet[1] /ʃi:t/ *n* **1** a large four-sided piece of usu. cotton or nylon cloth used in a pair on a bed, one above and one below a person lying in it: *We change the sheets* (=put clean ones on the bed) *every week.* **2** [**(of)**] a broad regularly shaped piece of a thin or flat material, such as paper, glass, or metal: *a sheet of glass* | *They wrapped his fish and chips in a sheet of newspaper.* | *sheet metal* (=metal in sheets) **3** [**(of)**] a broad stretch or surface of something thin: *A sheet of ice covered the lake.* **4** [**(of)** *often pl.*] a moving or powerful wide mass: *The rain was coming down in sheets.* | *A sheet of flame blocked his way out of the burning house.* —see also BALANCE SHEET, SPREADSHEET, **white as a sheet** (WHITE[1])

sheet[2] *n tech* a rope or chain controlling the angle between a sail and the wind

sheet an·chor /'· ,··/ *n* **1** a ship's largest ANCHOR, used only in time of danger **2** a person or thing that is a main or only support in time of trouble

sheet·ing /'ʃi:tɪŋ/ *n* [U] (cloth or other material for making) sheets: *cotton sheeting* | *metal sheeting*

sheet light·ning /,· '··, '· ,··/ *n* [U] lightning in the form of a sudden flash of brightness that covers the whole sky —compare FORKED LIGHTNING, HEAT LIGHTNING

sheet mu·sic /'· ,··, ,· '··/ *n* [U] music printed on single sheets and not bound in book form

Shef·field /'ʃefi:ld/ an industrial city in S Yorkshire, in the N of England, famous for the making of tools, special

steels, and (esp. formerly) CUTLERY. Sheffield has a university, and two football teams. —see also HILLSBOROUGH and see colour map on page 818

She·her·a·za·de, Scheherazade /ʃəˌherəˈzɑːdə, -ˈzɑːd/ the woman in the *Arabian Nights* who tells her husband Shahriyar the thousand and one stories collected in that book, to prevent him from carrying out the threat he had made to kill her —see also ARABIAN NIGHTS

sheikh , sheik /ʃeɪk‖ʃiːk/ *n* **1** an Arab chief or prince **2** a Muslim religious leader or teacher

sheikh·dom , sheikdom /ˈʃeɪkdəm‖ˈʃiːk-/ *n* a place under the government of a SHEIKH (1)

shei·la /ˈʃiːlə/ *n sl, esp. AustrE* a girl

shek·el /ˈʃekəl/ *n* the standard unit of money in Israel

shek·els /ˈʃekəlz/ *n* [P] *humor* money

shel·duck /ˈʃeldʌk/ **shel·drake** /ˈʃeldreɪk/*masc.*— *n* a large brightly-coloured European duck

shelf /ʃelf/ *n* **shelves** /ʃelvz/ **1** a flat usu. long and narrow board fixed against a wall or in a frame, for putting or storing things on: *I'm putting up some new kitchen shelves.* | *a bookshelf* | *supermarket shelves* | *a product that sold so badly that it wasn't worth the shelf space given to it in the shop* **2** a natural formation shaped like a shelf, esp. a narrow surface (LEDGE) of rock underwater —see also CONTINENTAL SHELF **3 off the shelf** that can be bought at once, without being specially ordered: *off-the-shelf computer software packages* —compare **off the peg** (PEG¹) **4 on the shelf** *infml* **a** (esp. of a woman) not likely to marry, esp. because too old **b** put aside or not used because no one wants it —see also SHELVE

shelf life /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] the length of time a product (esp. food, chemicals, etc.) will last without any reduction in quality, esp. while being kept in a shop

shell¹ /ʃel/ *n* **1** [C;U] (*often in comb.*) a hard outer covering of a nut, egg, or seed, or of certain types of animal: *a snail/oyster shell* | *an ornament made of shells* (=SEASHELLS) —see also EGGSHELL, NUTSHELL, SEASHELL, SHELLFISH, and see pictures at NUT, SLUG and TORTOISE **2** [C] an explosive shaped like a very large bullet, for firing from a large gun: *Shells were bursting all around.* —compare BULLET **3** [C] the outside structure or outer surface of something, esp. something whose contents are missing or have been destroyed: *All that remained of the building after the fire was an empty shell.* | *His grief had left him a mere shell of a man.* **4 come out of one's shell** *infml* to stop being nervous or quiet in a social situation and begin to be friendly, willing to talk, etc.

shell² *v* [T] **1** to remove from a shell or similar natural outer covering, esp. a POD: *shelled prawns* | *He was shelling peas.* **2** to fire SHELLS¹ (2) at: *Our artillery shelled the enemy positions.*

shell (sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* [I;T] *infml* to pay (money), esp. unwillingly: *I've had to shell out (more money) to repair the car again.*

Shell *n* a very large international oil company

she'll /ʃil; *strong* ʃiːl/ *short for:* she will: *She'll come if she can.*

shel·lac /ʃəˈlæk/ *n* [U] a thick orange-coloured or transparent alcohol-based liquid used like paint as a shiny protective covering

shel·lack·ing /ʃəˈlækɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *AmE infml* a severe defeat

Shel·ley /ˈʃeli/, **Ma·ry Woll·stone·craft** /ˈməəri ˈwʊlstənkrɑːft‖-kræft/ (1797–1851) an English writer, and the wife of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Her most famous book is the HORROR STORY *Frankenstein.*

Shelley, Per·cy Bysshe /ˈpɜːsi bɪʃ‖ˈpɜːr-/ (1792–1822) an English poet. His most famous works were written after 1818 when he settled in Italy with his second wife, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, and include *Adonais* (in memory of John Keats), *Prometheus Unbound*, and the short poem *To a Skylark.*

shell·fire /ˈʃelfaɪəʳ/ *n* [U] the firing or shooting of explosive shells: *The town came under heavy shellfire.*

shell·fish /ˈʃelˌfɪʃ/ *n* **shellfish** **1** [C] an animal without a BACKBONE that lives in water and has a shell: *Lobsters and oysters are shellfish.* **2** [U] such animals as food: *Do you like shellfish?*

shell game /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* **1** a game meant to deceive the person who is watching it. In the game a small object is placed under one of three cups and then the cups are moved quickly into different positions. The person watching must then say which of the cups the object is under. **2** something meant to deceive, esp. in order to gain money through cheating: *These door-to-door insurance salesmen are playing a shell game to get your hard-earned cash.*

shell-like /ˈ· ·/ *n* **a word in your shell-like** *BrE infml humor* a word in your ear; a phrase used when you want to talk to someone privately

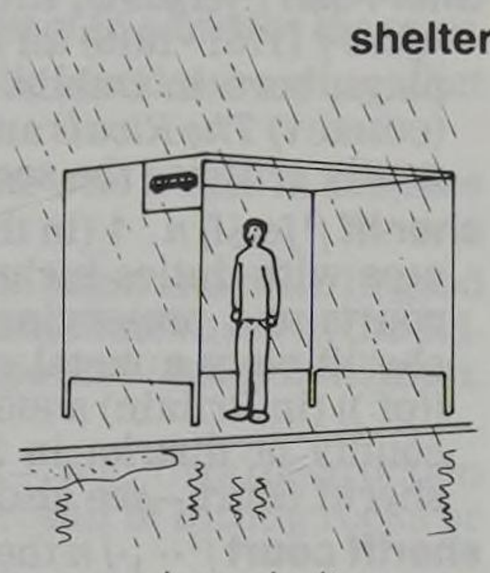
shell·shock /ˈʃelʃɒk‖-ʃɑːk/ *n* [U] *old-fash for* COMBAT FATIGUE

shell·shocked /ˈʃelʃɒkt‖-ʃɑːkt/ *adj* **1** mentally ill because of the STRESS of war: *shellshocked soldiers* **2** *infml* having an unsteady, confused feeling in the head: *She's only just finished writing her dissertation, so she's a bit shellshocked.*

shell suit /ˈ· ·/ *n* a loose-fitting, brightly coloured informal suit made of thin shiny material such as NYLON, with similar material covering the inner surface, fitting tightly at the ends of the arms and legs. They became popular in the early 1990s for adults and children.

shel·ter¹ /ˈʃeltəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] a building or roofed enclosure that gives cover or protection: *a wooden shelter in a public garden* | *an air-raid shelter* | *a bus shelter* (=a roofed enclosure at a bus stop) | *a nuclear fallout shelter* | *a shelter for the homeless* (=a house or other building where they can live) **2** [U] cover and protection: *In the storm I* **took shelter** *under a tree.* | *Everyone* **ran for shelter** *when the bombing started.* | *The mosque provided shelter for hundreds of families whose homes had been flooded.* | *The refugees' immediate need is for food, clothing, and shelter.* —see also TAX SHELTER

shelter



bus shelter

shelter² *v* **1** [T (**from**)] to protect from harm; give shelter to: *These plants must be sheltered from direct sunlight.* | *sheltering the homeless* | *a sheltered valley* (=protected from extreme weather conditions) **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to take shelter; find protection: *In the storm people were sheltering (from the rain) in the doorways of shops.*

Shelter a British organization (CHARITY), begun in 1966, which works to help homeless people

shel·tered /ˈʃeltəd‖-ərd/ *adj* **1** *often derog* kept away from harm, risk, or unpleasant realities, esp. to an unhealthy degree: *He's led a* **sheltered life.** **2** [A *no comp.*] providing a place to live where people are employed to look after those who live there: *sheltered housing/accommodation for the elderly*

shelve /ʃelv/ *v* **1** [T] *fml* (esp. of books) to put on a shelf; arrange on shelves: *Oversize books are shelved in the East Library.* **2** [T] to put aside until a later time: *We've had to shelve our holiday plans because I've just lost my job.* **3** [I (DOWN, UP)] (of land) to slope gradually: *The land shelves towards the sea.*

shelves /ʃelvz/ *pl. of* SHELF

shelv·ing /ˈʃelvɪŋ/ *n* [U] (material for) shelves

Shen·an·do·ah /ˌʃenənˈdəʊə/ in the US, a river and a valley between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains in NW Virginia. **Shenandoah National Park**, in the Blue Ridge Mountains, covers about 300 sqare miles, and includes woods and **Skyline Drive**, from which the Shenandoah Valley can be seen.

she·nan·i·gans /ʃɪˈnænɪgənz/ *n* [P] *infml* **1** rather dishonest practices or tricks **2** slightly annoying playfulness or fun; MISCHIEF

Shep·ard /ˈʃepəd‖-ərd/, **Sam** /sæm/ (1943–) an American writer and actor. His plays include *The Tooth of Crime* and *Fool for Love*

shep·herd¹ /ˈʃepəd‖-ərd/ *n* **1** a person who takes care of sheep in the fields or open country **2** [(**of**)] (esp. in religious situations) someone who takes care of people: *new church organization which will increase every minister's effectiveness as the shepherd of his flock* —see also GOOD SHEPHERD, LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

shepherd[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to lead, guide, or take care of like sheep: *The teacher was shepherding the group of children into the bus.*

shep·herd·ess /ˈʃepədes‖-ərdɨs/ *n* (esp. in poetry and art) a woman or girl who takes care of sheep in the field or open country

Shepherds Mar·ket /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a once-fashionable area of London now known esp. for PROSTITUTION

shepherd's pie /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **cottage pie**– *n* [U] a baked dish made of cut-up cooked meat covered with cooked potato

Sher·a·ton[1] /ˈʃerətən/ [*the*] one of a group of large expensive hotels

Sheraton[2] *adj* the graceful style (of a piece of furniture) made in Britain around 1800 by **Thomas Sheraton**: *a Sheraton card table*

sher·bet /ˈʃɜːbət‖ˈʃɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] *BrE* a powder eaten as a sweet or added to water to make a cool drink, esp. for children **2** [C] *esp. AmE for* SORBET (1)

sherd /ʃɜːd‖ʃɜːrd/ *n* (esp. in ARCHAEOLOGY) a SHARD –see also POTSHERD

she·ri·a /ʃəˈrɪə/ *n* [U] SHARIA

Sher·i·dan /ˈʃerɨdən/, **Rich·ard Brins·ley** /ˈrɪtʃəd ˈbrɪnzli‖-tʃərd-/ (1751–1816) an English politician and writer of plays, born in Dublin. He is famous for his comedies (COMEDY) *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal*, which gently criticize the society of his time.

sher·iff /ˈʃerɨf/ *n* **1** (in the US) an elected officer in a local area with duties including carrying out the orders of courts and preserving public order. In the past, the sheriff wore a metal BADGE in the shape of a star. **2** [(**of**)] (in Britain) a HIGH SHERIFF **3** the chief judge of a county or district in Scotland, who hears cases in a sheriff court –see also extra information on page 742

sheriff court /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* the main lower court of law in Scotland, dealing with both CIVIL and criminal cases –see also extra information on page 742

Sheriff of Not·ting·ham /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ [*the*] according to old stories, the main enemy of Robin Hood –see also ROBIN HOOD and see colour picture on page 620

Sherlock Holmes see Sherlock HOLMES

Sherman Tank /ˌʃɜːmən ˈtæŋk‖ˌʃɜːr-/ *n* the most-used TANK (2) of the US armed forces in the Second World War: (fig.) *You can't come barging in here like a Sherman Tank expecting us to drop what we're doing!*

Sher·pa /ˈʃɜːpə‖ˈʃɜːr-/ *n* a member of a Himalayan people who are very good at climbing mountains, and are often employed to guide other mountain climbers

sher·ry /ˈʃeri/ *n* [U] a pale or dark brown strong wine (of a kind originally) from Spain –see picture at GLASS

Sher·wood For·est /ˌʃɜːwʊd ˈfɒrɨst‖ˌʃɜːrwʊd ˈfɔː-, ˈfɑː-/ an area of ancient forest in central England, mainly in Nottinghamshire, which was formerly a royal hunting-ground. Sherwood Forest is famous as the place where Robin Hood is supposed to have lived.

she's /ʃiz; *strong* ʃiːz/ *short for:* **1** she is: *She's working in an office.* **2** she has: *She's got a new job.*

She Stoops to Con·quer /· ˌ· · ˈ··/ a humorous play by Oliver Goldsmith, written in 1773

Shet·land Is·lands /ˌʃetlənd ˈaɪləndz/ [*the*+P] also **Shetland, the Shetlands**– a group of about 100 islands off the N coast of Scotland, further N than the Orkneys. The capital is Lerwick, on Mainland, the largest island. The main industries of the islands are fishing, farming, producing wool clothes, and, more recently, handling the oil which is taken from nearby areas of the North Sea. –see colour map on page 818

Shetland po·ny /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a rough-haired strong very small horse

Shet·lands /ˈʃetləndz/ [*the*+P] the SHETLAND ISLANDS

Shetland sheep·dog /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a breed of SHEEPDOG which originally came from the Shetland Islands and which looks like, but is smaller than, the COLLIE

shew /ʃəʊ/ *v* **shewed** /ʃəʊd/, **shewn** /ʃəʊn/ [I;T] *old use* to show

shh /ʃ/ *interj* **1** (used for demanding silence or less noise): *"Shh! You sound like a herd of elephants!"* **2 shh/schh, you know who**... an advertising SLOGAN used for many years for Schweppes drinks

Shi·a, Shiah /ˈʃiːə/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** the Shiite branch of the Muslim religion **2** [C] a Shiite

shi·a·tsu /ʃiˈɑːtsuː/ *n* [U] an ancient Japanese form of treatment which uses pressure on many different places on the body to prevent illness and to treat disorders such as headaches, backaches, and emotional problems. In the West it is considered a form of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE – compare ACUPRESSURE, ACUPUNCTURE

shib·bo·leth /ˈʃɪbəleθ‖ˈʃɪbəlɨθ/ *n* a once-important or widely accepted custom or principle which no longer has much meaning

shield[1] /ʃiːld/ *n* **1** a broad piece of metal, wood, or strong plastic that is carried (e.g. by soldiers in former times, or by policemen) as a protection against being hit: *The police were equipped with riot shields.* **2** a representation of a shield, usu. wide at the top and curving to a point at the bottom, used for a COAT OF ARMS, a BADGE, a prize in sport, etc. **3** a protective cover, esp. on a machine – see also HEAT SHIELD, WINDSHIELD

shield[2] *v* [T (**from**)] to protect or hide from harm or danger through action to defend oneself: *She lied to the police to shield her friend.* | *He raised his arm to shield himself from the blow.*

shift[1] /ʃɪft/ *v* **1** [I;T] to change in position or direction; move from one place to another: *He shifted impatiently in his seat during the long speech.* | *There were four of us trying to lift the heavy box, but we couldn't shift it.* | *The wind shifted and blew the mist away.* | (fig.) *Don't try to shift the blame onto me!* | (fig.) *The recent hijacking has shifted attention away from internal problems.* **2** [T] *esp. BrE* to get rid of or remove: *a new washing powder that will shift any stain* | *The thieves couldn't shift* (=sell) *any of those stolen colour televisions.* **3** [I] *BrE infml* to move very fast: *That motorbike was really shifting!* **4** [I;T] *esp. AmE* to CHANGE[1] (7) (GEAR in a vehicle): *I shifted into top gear.* **5 shift for oneself** *old-fash* to take care of oneself; live as well as one can by one's own efforts: *He's had to shift for himself since his mother died.*

▷USAGE **Shift** is rather informal in the meaning of "move or remove something". Compare *Will you* **shift** *that car?* and *Could you possibly* **move** *your car, please?*◁

shift[2] *n* **1** [(**in**)] a change in position, direction, or character: *There's been a shift in the wind|in political opinion.* | *the gradual shift of workers away from manufacturing and towards the service industries* **2 a** [+*sing.*/*pl. v*] a group of workers which takes turns with one or more other groups: *The night shift arrives|arrive at six o'clock.* **b** the period of time worked by such a group: *I'm on day shift this week.* | *shift workers* **3 a** a loosefitting straight simple woman's dress **b** *old use* a woman's dresslike undergarment **4** [*usu. pl.*] *old-fash* a trick or method used in a time of difficulty; EXPEDIENT **5 make shift (with)** *old-fash* to use what can be found because one lacks anything better –see also GEAR LEVER, MAKESHIFT, STICK SHIFT

shift key /ˈ· ·/ *n* the KEY[1] (3) on a KEYBOARD (e.g. of a TYPEWRITER) which is pressed in order to print a capital letter –see picture at TYPEWRITER

shift·less /ˈʃɪftləs/ *adj* lazy and lacking the desire to succeed – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

shift stick /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* GEAR LEVER –see also STICK SHIFT and see picture at BICYCLE

shift·y /ˈʃɪfti/ *adj infml* looking dishonest; not to be trusted; FURTIVE: *shifty eyes* | *a shifty little man* –**ily** *adv* –**iness** *n* [U]

Shi·ite /ˈʃiː-aɪt/ *n, adj* (a member) of the second-largest branch of the Muslim religion, which is based on the teachings and acts of Muhammad's COUSIN Ali and of the teachers who came after him –compare SUNNI

Shi·ko·ku /ˈʃiːkəʊkuː/ the smallest of Japan's four main islands

shil·ling /ˈʃɪlɪŋ/ *n* **1** (a silver-coloured coin worth) an amount of money in use in Britain until 1971, equal to 12 old pence and $^{1}/_{20}$ of £1 **2** a unit of money in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia, equal to 100 cents **3 look as though one has lost a shilling and found sixpence** *BrE infml* to look rather unhappy

shil·le·lagh /ʃiˈleɪli/ *n* an Irish weapon like a thick, heavy stick, often referred to as being something typically Irish

shil·ly-shal·ly /ˈʃɪli ˌʃæli/ *v* [I] *infml derog* to waste time without reaching a decision or taking action

shim·mer /ˈʃɪməʳ/ *v* [I] to shine with a soft trembling light: *The water shimmered in the moonlight.* —**shimmer** *n* [U]: *the shimmer of the desert air in the midday heat*

shin[1] /ʃɪn/ *n* the bony front part of the leg between the knee and ankle

shin[2] *BrE*‖**shinny** *AmE*— *v* **-nn-** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to climb up or down a tree, pole, etc., esp. quickly and easily, using the hands and legs: *She shinned up a tree to get a better view.* | *to shin down a drainpipe*

shin·bone /ˈʃɪnbəʊn/ also **tibia** *med*— *n* the front bone in the leg below the knee —see picture at SKELETON

shin·dig /ˈʃɪndɪg/ *n old-fash infml* **1** a noisy party, dance, etc. **2** a noisy quarrel or disagreement

shine[1] /ʃaɪn/ *v* **shone** /ʃɒn‖ʃəʊn/ **1** [I] to produce light: *It was a fine morning with the sun shining (down).* | *They must be at home — there's a light shining in the bedroom.* | (fig.) *His honesty shines through.* (=He is very clearly honest.) **2** [I] to REFLECT (=throw back) light; be bright: *The polished surface shone in the sun.* | *She brushed her hair till it shone.* | (fig.) *eyes shining with happiness* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to direct (a lamp, beam of light, etc.): *He shone a light in my eyes*/*shone a torch into the cave.* **4** [T] (*past tense & participle* **shined**) to polish; make bright by rubbing: *Shine your shoes before going out.* **5** [I *not in progressive forms*] to be clearly excellent (at a skill, school subject, etc.): *He's a pretty good student, but sports are where he really shines.*

shine[2] *n* [S] **1** brightness, esp. caused by REFLECTION; shining quality: *The wooden surface had a beautiful shine.* **2** an act of polishing, esp. of shoes: *These shoes need a shine.* **3 take a shine to someone** *infml* to start to like someone as soon as one has met them, esp. without any clear reason —see also **(come) rain or shine** (RAIN[1])

shin·gle[1] /ˈʃɪŋgəl/ *n* [U] small unevenly rounded pieces of stone, larger than GRAVEL, covering large areas of seashore —**-gly** *adj*: *a shingly beach*

shingle[2] *n* **1** a small thin piece of building material, esp. wood, laid in rows to cover a roof or wall **2 hang out one's shingle** *AmE* to start a business for oneself: *When I get my law degree I'm going to hang out my shingle in my old home town.*

shin·gles /ˈʃɪŋgəlz/ *n* [U] a disease caused by an infection of certain nerves and producing usu. painful red spots, often in a band round the waist

shin·ing /ˈʃaɪnɪŋ/ *adj* [A] noticeably excellent: *a* **shining example** *of courage*

shin·ny /ˈʃɪni/ *v* [I] *AmE for* SHIN[2]

Shin·to /ˈʃɪntəʊ/ also **Shin·to·is·m** /ˈʃɪntəʊɪzəm/— the ancient religion of Japan, including the worship of gods that represent various parts of nature, and of people who died in the past

shin·ty /ˈʃɪnti/ *n* [U] a game played in Scotland, similar to HOCKEY

shin·y /ˈʃaɪni/ *adj* (esp. of a smooth surface) giving off light, as if polished; bright: *a shiny new 10p coin* | *shiny shoes*/*hair* —**-iness** *n* [U]

ship[1] /ʃɪp/ *n* **1** a large boat for carrying people or goods on the sea: *It's much slower to cross the Atlantic by ship.* | *a naval*/*merchant*/*cruise ship* | *a ship-to-shore radio link* —see BOAT (USAGE), TRANSPORT (USAGE), VESSEL (USAGE), and see picture at SAIL **2** *old-fash infml* a large aircraft or esp. spacecraft **3 I see no ships** *quote* a phrase believed to have been used by Lord Nelson before the battle of Copenhagen, He had received orders to leave the area because Danish ships were approaching. He put his telescope to his blind eye and said, "I see no ships." His ships stayed where they were, and won the battle that followed. **4 ships that pass in the night** people who meet by chance and who are unlikely to meet again (from a poem by H W Longfellow): *She's a woman I met briefly at a conference; we were just ships that pass in the night, though.* **5 when one's 'ship comes in**/**home** *infml* when one becomes rich

ship[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to send or carry by ship: *I'm flying to America but my car is being shipped.* **2** to send (esp. a large article) to a distant place by post or other means: *We ship our products anywhere within Great Britain.* **3** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. OFF] *infml* to order to go somewhere; send; DISPATCH: *As soon as the doctor saw her he shipped her off to hospital.* **4** (of a boat) to take in (water) over the side: *The boat began to ship water and we thought it would sink.* **5** to hold (one's OARS) to the side of the boat without rowing

ship bis·cuit /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **ship's biscuit, hard tack**— *n* [U] a hard-baked bread eaten esp. formerly by sailors at sea

ship·board /ˈʃɪpbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* **on shipboard** on board ship; on a ship: *goods stored on shipboard* | *a shipboard romance*

ship·build·er /ˈʃɪpˌbɪldəʳ/ *n* a person or company that plans and makes ships —**-ing** *n* [U]

ship·mate /ˈʃɪpmeɪt/ *n* a fellow sailor on the same ship

ship·ment /ˈʃɪpmənt/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a load of goods sent together by sea, road, or air: *A large shipment of grain has just arrived.* **2** [C;U] the action of sending, carrying, and delivering goods: *The goods were ready for shipment*/*lost in shipment.*

ship·per /ˈʃɪpəʳ/ *n* someone who makes shipments of goods: *wine shippers*

ship·ping /ˈʃɪpɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1 a** ships considered as a group: *The canal has been closed to shipping.* **b** all the ships belonging to a particular country: *British shipping has decreased in recent years.* **2** the sending and delivery of goods: *There's a shipping charge of £5 added to the price.*

shipping fore·cast /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a radio broadcast saying what the weather will be like at sea

ship's chand·ler /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* someone who trades in supplies for ships

ship·shape /ˈʃɪpʃeɪp/ *adj* [F] made clean and neat; in good order. In Britain, this word is sometimes used in the old-fashioned phrase **(all) shipshape and 'Bristol fashion**, which means the same.

ship·wreck[1] /ˈʃɪp-rek/ also **wreck**— *n* [C;U] (a) destruction of a ship, usu. accidental as a result of hitting rocks or sinking

shipwreck[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to cause (esp. a person) to suffer shipwreck: *The shipwrecked sailors were rescued by helicopter.*

ship·wright /ˈʃɪp-raɪt/ *n* a person who works on building and repairing ships

ship·yard /ˈʃɪp-jɑːd‖-jɑːrd/ *n* a place where ships are built or repaired

shire /ʃaɪəʳ/ *n old use for* a COUNTY[1] —see also SHIRES

shire horse /ˈ· ·/ *n* a large powerful English horse used for pulling loads

shires /ʃaɪəz‖ʃaɪərz/ [*the*+P] (*usu. cap.*) the country areas of England away from the big cities, esp. in the centre of England: *The government gets a lot of its support from the Shires.* | *the shire counties*

► CULTURAL NOTE The Shires are famous for hunting, esp. fox hunting, and are thought by many to contain a large number of rich country people with RIGHT-WING political views. ◄

shirk /ʃɜːk‖ʃɜːrk/ *v* [I;T] *derog* to avoid (unpleasant work or responsibilities) because of laziness, lack of determination, etc. —**~er** *n*

Shir·ley Tem·ple /ˌʃɜːli ˈtempəl‖ˌʃɜːr-/ *n* ROY ROGERS

shirt /ʃɜːt‖ʃɜːrt/ *n* **1** a piece of clothing for the upper part of the body that is usu. of light cloth with a collar and SLEEVES, is fastened in front with buttons, and is typically worn by a man —see also HAIR SHIRT, NIGHTSHIRT, SWEATSHIRT, T-SHIRT, UNDERSHIRT **2 have the shirt off someone's back** *infml* to take everything from someone, usu. because one is owed it, but in an unnecessarily MEAN[1] way **3 put one's shirt on** *infml* to risk all one's money on; BET heavily on: *That horse is bound to win; put your shirt on it.* —see also STUFFED SHIRT, **keep one's shirt on** (KEEP[1])

shirt·front /ˈʃɜːtfrʌnt‖ˈʃɜːrt-/ *n* the part of a shirt covering the chest, esp. the stiff front part of a formal white shirt

shirt·sleeve /ˈʃɜːtˌsliːv‖ˈʃɜːrt-/ *adj* [A] *infml* not wearing JACKETS, esp. because of hot weather or informality: *There was a large shirtsleeve crowd to watch the cricket match.* | *shirtsleeve* (=informal and direct) *diplomacy*

shirt·sleeves /ˈʃɜːtsliːvz‖ˈʃɜːrt-/ *n* **in (one's) shirtsleeves** wearing nothing over one's shirt: *On hot days the men in the office work in their shirtsleeves.*

shirt·tail /ˈʃɜːt-teɪl‖ˈʃɜːrt-/ *n* the part of a shirt below the wearer's waist

shirt·waist·er /ˈʃɜːtˌweɪstəʳ‖ˈʃɜːrt-/ *BrE*‖ **shirt·waist** /ˈʃɜːtˌweɪst‖ˈʃɜːrt-/*AmE*– *n* a woman's dress in the style of a man's shirt

shirt·y /ˈʃɜːti‖ˈʃɜːr-/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* bad-tempered; angry and rude: *He gets a bit shirty if you contradict him.*

shish ke·bab /ˈʃɪʃ kəˌbæb‖-bɑːb/ *n* a KEBAB cooked on a SKEWER

shit[1] /ʃɪt/ *v* **shit** *or* **shitted** *or* **shat** /ʃæt/; *present participle* **shitting** *taboo* **1** [I] to pass solid waste from the bowels; DEFECATE **2** [T] to make (something) dirty by passing solid waste from the bowels into it **3 shit oneself: a** to pass solid waste from the bowels accidentally **b** *infml* to be very afraid

shit[2] *n taboo* **1** [U] solid waste from the bowels; EXCREMENT: *dog shit* **2** [S] an act of passing this waste from the body: *to have a shit* **3** [U] stupid talk; NONSENSE: *That's a load of shit.* **4** [C] a worthless or unpleasant person: *He's a complete shit.* **5 in the shit** in trouble **6 not give/care a shit** not to care even a small amount: *I don't give a shit what you think.* **7 the shit (is going to/will) hit the fan** *infml* there (will be or) was a lot of trouble, esp. from someone in authority: *When I didn't come home until three in the morning, the shit really hit the fan – my parents and the police were all shouting at me at once.* | *If the press hear about this, the shit's going to hit the fan.* –see also BULLSHIT; **scare the shit out of** (SCARE[1])

shit[3] *interj taboo* (expressing anger or annoyance)

shit·house /ˈʃɪthaʊs/ *n AmE taboo sl* **1** an outdoor TOILET **2 built like a brick shithouse** (of a man or woman) having a very broad, strong looking body

shits /ʃɪts/ *n* [*the*+P] *taboo for* DIARRHOEA

shit·ty /ˈʃɪti/ *adj taboo* unpleasant; nasty

shiv·er[1] /ˈʃɪvəʳ/ *v* **1** [I (**with**)] to shake slightly, esp. because of cold or fear; tremble: *The little dog was shivering with cold.* | *shivering with terror* **2 Shiver me timbers!** a phrase said by old sailors, PIRATES, etc., in stories, to express surprise or annoyance

shiver[2] *n* a feeling or act of shivering: *A sudden scream* **sent shivers (up and) down my spine.** (=frightened me)

shiver[3] *n* [*usu. pl.*] *esp. lit* any of the very small pieces into which something is broken when it is hit or dropped

shiv·ers /ˈʃɪvəz‖-ərz/ *n* [*the*+P] *infml* **1** tremblings typical of a fever **2** feelings of strong unreasonable dislike or fear: *Snakes give me the shivers.*

shiv·er·y /ˈʃɪvəri/ *adj* (of a person) trembling from cold, fear, or fever

shoal[1] /ʃəʊl/ *n* an underwater bank of sand not far below the surface of the water, making it dangerous to boats

shoal[2] *n* [C+*sing./pl. v.*] **1** a large group of fish swimming together **2** [(**of**)] also **shoals** *pl.*– *infml, often derog* lots, esp. in large groups: *Shoals of tourists visit the palace in summer.*

shock[1] /ʃɒk‖ʃɑːk/ *n* **1** [C;U] (the state or feeling caused by) a sudden, unexpected, and usu. very unpleasant event or situation that severely upsets the mind and feelings: *His death came as/was a great shock to us all.* | *speechless from shock* | (*infml*) *I got a bit of a shock* (=was unpleasantly surprised) *when I saw the size of the bill.* **2** [C;U] (a) violent force from a hard blow, crash, explosion, etc.: *The shock of the explosion was felt far away; the* **shock waves** *spread for miles.* | (fig.) *His resignation has sent shock waves through Parliament.* **3** [C] an ELECTRIC SHOCK **4** [U] *med* the weakened state of the body with reduced activity of the heart, lungs, etc., esp. following damage to the body: *Several of those who survived the accident have been taken to hospital in a state of shock/suffering from shock.*

shock[2] *v* [T] **1** to cause usu. unpleasant or angry surprise to: *The violence and bad language in the programme shocked many of the viewers.* | *It shocked me to see/I was shocked to see how my neighbours treated their children.* | *We were shocked at/by his sudden death.* | *The explicit advertising campaign sets out to shock people into driving more carefully.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to give an ELECTRIC SHOCK to: *Anyone touching that wire could get badly shocked.*

shock[3] *adj* [A] (esp. in newspapers) that shocks one; very surprising: *England's football team suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Luxembourg.* | *shock tactics*

shock[4] *n* [(**of**)] a thick bushy mass, esp. of hair

shock ab·sorb·er /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* an apparatus made usu. of a rod moving in and out of a tube of liquid, fixed near each wheel of a vehicle to lessen the effect of rough roads, or on an aircraft to make a smoother landing

shocked /ʃɒkt‖ʃɑːkt/ *adj* [A] caused by a sudden unpleasant surprise: *A shocked silence greeted the announcement.*

shock·er /ˈʃɒkəʳ‖ˈʃɑː-/ *n usu. humor* a person or thing that shocks one as being improper, wild, or immoral

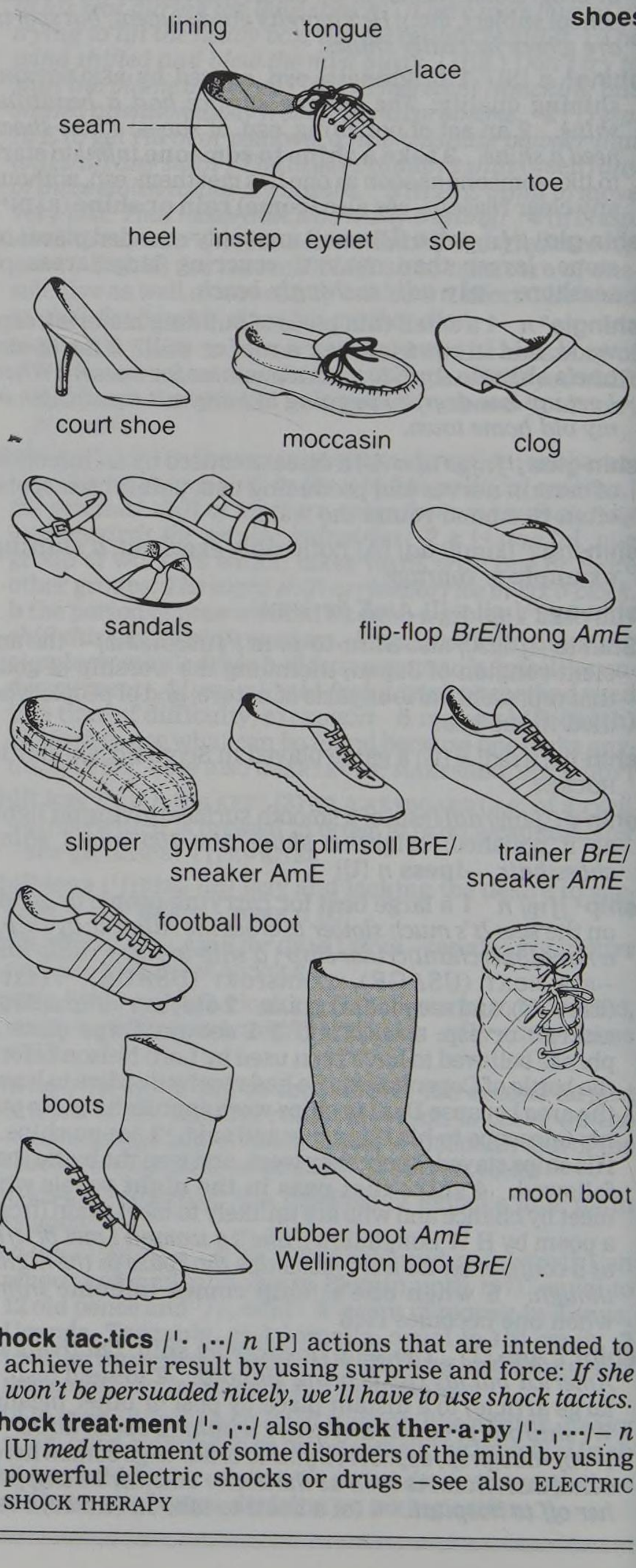
shock hor·ror /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] *infml, esp. BrE* very worrying or shocking; a phrase used by or thought to be typical of HEADLINES in low-quality newspapers: *Shock horror crime surge probe!* (=a worrying study about an increase in crime)

shock·ing /ˈʃɒkɪŋ‖ˈʃɑː-/ *adj* **1** causing shock; very offensive, wrong, or upsetting: *a shocking accident* | *The play was considered too shocking* (=immoral) *to be staged at the time it was written.* **2** *BrE infml* very bad (though not evil): *What a shocking waste of time!* | *I've got a shocking cold.* – ~**ly** *adv* : *shockingly rude behaviour* | *shockingly bad grammar*

shocking pink /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj, n* [U] (having a) very bright strong pink colour

shock·proof /ˈʃɒkpruːf‖ˈʃɑːk-/ *adj* (esp. of a watch) not easily damaged by being dropped, hit, shaken, etc.

shoes



shock tac·tics /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [P] actions that are intended to achieve their result by using surprise and force: *If she won't be persuaded nicely, we'll have to use shock tactics.*

shock treat·ment /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **shock ther·a·py** /ˈ· ˌ···/– *n* [U] *med* treatment of some disorders of the mind by using powerful electric shocks or drugs –see also ELECTRIC SHOCK THERAPY

shock troops /ˈ· ·/ *n* [P] soldiers chosen and trained for use in sudden forceful attacking

shod[1] /ʃɒd‖ʃɑːd/ *past tense & participle of* SHOE[2]

shod[2] *adj usu. lit* wearing or provided with shoes of the stated kind: *poor badly-shod children | expensively-shod ladies*

shod·dy /ˈʃɒdi‖ˈʃɑːdi/ *adj* **1** made or done cheaply and badly: *shoddy goods/workmanship* **2** ungenerous or dishonourable: *a shoddy trick* —**-dily** *adv* —**-diness** *n* [U]

shoe[1] /ʃuː/ *n* **1** an outer covering for the human foot, typically of leather and having a hard base (SOLE) and a support (HEEL) under the heel of the foot: *She put on/laced up/took off her shoes. | leather shoes with rubber soles | a pair of canvas tennis shoes | high-heeled shoes | dancing shoes | shoe shops* —compare BOOT[1] (1), SANDAL, SLIPPER; see PAIR (USAGE) **2** a HORSESHOE **3 in someone's shoes** in someone's situation; experiencing what someone else has to experience: *I'm glad I'm not in his shoes just now, with all those debts to pay! | If I were in your shoes I'd refuse.* **4 step into/fill someone's shoes** to take the place and do the job of someone: *Will anyone be able to fill her shoes now that she's left the company?* **5 if the shoe fits, wear it** *AmE*‖**if the cap fits, wear it** *BrE saying* if a remark about someone is true or suggests something true, that person should accept it: *"Are you saying I'm a fool?" "If the shoe fits..."* —see also BRAKE SHOE

shoe[2] *v* **shod** /ʃɒd‖ʃɑːd/ *or* **shoed,** *present participle* **shoeing** [T] to fix a HORSESHOE on: *A man who shoes horses is called a farrier.*

shoe·horn[1] /ˈʃuːhɔːn‖-hɔːrn/ *n* a curved piece of metal or plastic for putting inside the back of a shoe when putting the shoe on, to help the heel go in easily

shoehorn[2] *v* [T] *infml* to force into a limited space: *They managed to shoehorn two more passengers into the crowded bus. | a tiny new house shoehorned in between two others*

shoe·lace /ˈʃuːleɪs/ also **lace**– *n* a thin cord passed through holes on both sides of the front opening of a shoe and tied to fasten the shoe on: *Do up your shoelaces.* —see PAIR (USAGE)

shoe·mak·er /ˈʃuːmeɪkəʳ/ *n* COBBLER

Shoemaker, Willie (1931–) an American JOCKEY (=a person who rides horses in races)

shoe·shine /ˈʃuːʃaɪn/ *n* an act of polishing the shoes

shoe·string[1] /ˈʃuːˌstrɪŋ/ *n* **1** *esp. AmE* for SHOELACE **2 on a shoestring** *infml* with a very small amount of money: *He started his business on a shoestring and built it up.*

shoestring[2] *adj* [A] *infml* operating on, done with, or being a small amount of money: *The whole company runs on a shoestring budget. | a shoestring enterprise*

shoe·tree /ˈʃuːtriː/ *n* a piece of wood or plastic and metal put inside a shoe to keep it in the right shape when it is not being worn

Sho·gun /ˈʃəʊgʌn/ *n* one of the military governors who ruled Japan before the REVOLUTION of 1867–68

shone /ʃɒn‖ʃəʊn/ *past tense & participle of* SHINE

shoo[1] /ʃuː/ *interj* (said, usu. not angrily, to animals or small children) Go away!

shoo[2] *v* [T] *infml* to drive away (as if) by saying "shoo": *She shooed the birds off the bushes. | He shooed the children out of the kitchen.*

shoo-in /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE infml* a person expected to win a race, election, etc. easily: *Clinton is a shoo-in for the Democratic nomination.*

shook /ʃʊk/ *past tense of* SHAKE

shoot[1] /ʃuːt/ *v* **shot** /ʃɒt‖ʃɑːt/ **1** [I;T **(at)**] (of a person) to fire (a gun): *I'm coming out with my hands up: don't shoot! | He shot at the bird, but missed it.* (compare *He shot the bird and killed it.*) | *A dangerous murderer has escaped and the police have orders to* **shoot on sight** (=as soon as they see him)/**shoot to kill.** | *She learnt how to shoot a rifle when she was only 10.* [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *He shot his way out of prison.* (=escaped by shooting at people) **2** [T] (of a person or weapon) to send out (bullets, ARROWS, etc.) with force: *I shot an arrow at the target. | It's just a toy; you can't shoot real bullets with it. | This gun shoots .38 bullets.* **3** [T] to hit, wound, or kill with a bullet, etc.: *He shot a bird. | We heard on the news that the President had been shot. | He was shot three times in the arm. | I accidentally shot myself in the foot. | The postmaster was shot dead by the robbers.* **4** [I;T] to hunt or kill (birds or animals) in this way as a sport: *They go to Scotland every autumn to shoot (grouse).* **5** [T **(at)**] to send out as if from a gun: *Everyone shot questions at the chairman.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *She shot him an indignant glance.* **6** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to move very quickly or suddenly: *He shot past me on the motorway at about 110 miles an hour | The pain shot up my arm. | The snake's tongue shot out. | They shot out through the back door when they saw the police coming. | I get these* **shooting pains** *in my back.* (=sudden sharp pains that travel through the body) **7** [T] to pass quickly by or along: *The robbers' car shot the traffic lights.* (=went past them when they were signalling cars to stop) | *We shot the rapids in our canoe.* **8** [T] to move (a BOLT[1] (2)) across so as to be in a locked or unlocked position **9** [I;T] to make (a photograph or film) (of): *We'll be ready to shoot as soon as all the cameras are loaded.* | *This film was shot on location in California/was shot in colour. | He had the idea of shooting them against a completely plain white background* **10** [I] (of a plant) to put out SHOOTS[2] (1) **11** [I] to kick, throw, etc., a ball so as to make a point in a game: *Our striker got into a good position to shoot, but then missed his kick.* **12** [T] *infml* (in GOLF) to make (the stated number of strokes) in playing a complete game: *Miller shot a 69 today.* **13** [T] *AmE* to play (a game of esp. BILLIARDS, CRAPS, POOL[2] (3), or MARBLES): *Let's shoot some/a game of pool.* **14** [T] *sl* to take (a drug) directly into the blood using a needle: *She'd been shooting heroin.* **15 have shot one's bolt** (*BrE*)/**one's wad** (*AmE*) *infml* to have used up all one's strength, arguments, etc., and have nothing left **16 shoot a line** *BrE infml for* BOAST[1] (1) **17 shoot it out (with)** *infml* to have a SHOOT-OUT (with) **18 shoot one's mouth off** *infml* to talk loudly and foolishly about what one does not know about or should not talk about **19 shoot the bull/the breeze** *AmE infml,* also **shoot the shit** *taboo AmE*– to have an informal, not very serious, conversation: *They sat around shooting the bull until late at night.* —see also SHOT **20 shoot the moon** to MOON[2] **21 - shooter** a person or weapon that shoots the stated thing: *a rifleshooter | a peashooter*

shoot sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to bring down and destroy (a flying aircraft) by shooting **2** also **shoot down in flames**– **a** *infml* to say "no" firmly to; REJECT: *So there's another of my bright ideas shot down by the chairman!* **b** to show or claim to be wrong or mistaken: *It's my view – and shoot me down if you like – that he's the most talented of modern painters.*

shoot for/at sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml, esp. AmE* to try to reach; aim at: *We're shooting this year for a 50% increase in sales.*

shoot through *phr v* [I] *infml, esp. AustrE* **1** to leave, esp. in a hurry **2** to die

shoot up *phr v* **1** [I] to go upwards, increase, or grow quickly: *Flames shot up into the air. | Prices/Costs have shot up lately. | Little Jimmy's certainly shooting up.* (=getting taller quickly) **2** [T] (**shoot** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up**) *infml* to damage or wound by shooting: *His plane had been badly shot up by enemy fighters.* **3** [I;T (=**shoot up** sthg.)] *sl* to take (a drug) directly into the blood using a needle

shoot[2] *n* **1** a new growth from (a part of) a plant, esp. a young stem and leaves **2** an occasion for shooting, esp. of animals: *He invited us to his country estate for a weekend shoot.* **3** an area of land where animals are shot for sport

shoot·er /ˈʃuːtəʳ/ *n sl, esp. BrE* a gun; a word typically used in GANGSTER films

shoot·ing /ˈʃuːtɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a usu. criminal act of wounding by firing a gun: *politically-motivated shootings* **2** [U] the sport of shooting animals and birds: *the shooting season | a* —see HUNT (USAGE)

shooting gal·le·ry /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* an enclosed place, esp. at a FAIR[3], where people shoot guns at fixed or moving objects to win prizes, for practice, etc.

shooting i·ron /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n old-fash infml* a gun, esp. a REVOLVER; a word which is supposed to be used by COWBOYS: *OK, pardner, grab your shooting irons and get out of town!*

shooting match /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **the whole shooting match** *infml* the whole thing or affair

shooting star /ˌ··ˈ·/ also **falling star**– *n not tech* a small piece of material from space which burns brightly as it passes through the Earth's air; METEOR

►CULTURAL NOTE There is an old belief that when someone sees a shooting star, they are supposed to be able to make a wish for something they want to happen.◄

shooting stick /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a pointed walking stick with a top which opens out to form a seat, used for sitting outdoors, esp. by UPPER-CLASS country gentlemen

shoot-out /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a battle or exchange of shots between gunfighters, usu. to decide which will be victorious or to settle a quarrel –see also **shoot it out** (SHOOT¹ (17))

shop¹ /ʃɒp‖ʃɑːp/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. BrE* ‖usu. **store** *AmE*– (*often in comb.*) a room or building where goods are regularly kept and sold, or services are sold: *The shops in town close at 5.30.* | *a bookshop* | *a sweetshop* | *a betting shop* | *a shop window* | *I'm just going out to the shops to get some food.* –see also BUCKET SHOP, COFFEE SHOP **2** [C] a place where things are made or repaired; WORKSHOP: *When the cars have been assembled they go to the factory's paint shop to be painted.* | *a repair shop* –see also SHOP FLOOR, SHOP STEWARD **3** [U] *AmE* a subject taught in school which shows students how to use tools and machinery to make things out of wood or metal; INDUSTRIAL ART: *shop class* | *I'm taking shop this year.* | *I made it in wood|metal shop.* **4** [U] *infml* business; activity: *He's* **set up shop** (=started a business) *as a lawyer in town.* | *The whole country* **shuts up shop** (=stops doing business) *on Christmas Day.* **5** [U] *infml* subjects connected with one's work: *Let's not* **talk shop** *outside office hours.* **6 all over the shop** *BrE infml* scattered in disorder: *There were clothes and books lying around all over the shop.* –see also CLOSED SHOP, OPEN SHOP

shop² *v* **-pp-** **1** [I (**for**)] to visit one or more shops in order to buy things: *I went shopping today in town.* | *I was shopping for a new dress, but I couldn't find anything I liked.* –see also WINDOW-SHOP; see CUSTOMER (USAGE) **2** [T] *BrE derog sl* to tell the police about (a criminal): *The murderer was shopped by his girlfriend.* – ~**per** *n*

shop around *phr v* [I] to compare prices or values in different shops before buying: *We shopped around before deciding which car to buy.*

shop as·sis·tant /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **salesclerk** *AmE*– *n* a person who serves customers in a shop –see ATTEND (USAGE), OFFICER (USAGE)

shop·fit·ting /ˈʃɒpfɪtɪŋ‖ˈʃɑːp-/ *n* [U] *BrE* the activity or profession of selling and putting in equipment in shops, such as shelves, COUNTERS¹ (1), DISPLAY cases, etc.

shop floor /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [*the*+S] **1** the area, e.g. in a factory, where the ordinary workers do their work: *The chairman started his working life on the shop floor* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] the people who work on the shop floor, as opposed to the MANAGERS: *How will the shop floor react to these proposals?*

shop·keep·er /ˈʃɒpˌkiːpəʳ‖ˈʃɑːp-/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **storekeeper** *AmE*– *n* a person, usu. the owner, in charge of a small shop

shop·lift /ˈʃɒpˌlɪft‖ˈʃɑːp-/ *v* [I] to take goods from a shop without paying: *She was fined for shoplifting.* – ~**er** *n*: *The notice said "We always prosecute shoplifters."*

shop·lift·ing /ˈʃɒplɪftɪŋ‖ˈʃɑːp-/ *n* [U] the act of taking goods from a shop without paying for them

shop·per /ˈʃɒpəʳ‖ˈʃɑːpəʳ/ *n* a person who buys things from a shop: *streets crowded with Christmas shoppers* –see CUSTOMER (USAGE)

shop·ping /ˈʃɒpɪŋ‖ˈʃɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the goods bought in one visit to a shop or shops: *Let me carry your shopping.* | *Put the shopping in this basket.* **2** an act or occasion of visiting the shops to buy things: *I normally do all my shopping on Saturdays.* | *Don't forget–there are* **only 17 shopping days till Christmas!** (=only 17 days on which it is possible to go to the shops)

shopping cen·tre /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a group of shops of different kinds planned and built together in one area, often enclosed under one roof

shopping pre·cinct /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an area in a town where there are a lot of shops, and where cars are not allowed to drive

shop·soiled /ˈʃɒpsɔɪld‖ˈʃɑːp-/ *BrE* ‖ **shop·worn** /-wɔːn ‖-wɔːrn/ *AmE*– *adj* slightly damaged, dirty, or imperfect as a result of being handled or kept on view in a shop for a long time: (fig., *derog.*) *He brought out the same old shop-soiled arguments as before.*

shop stew·ard /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a TRADE UNION officer who is elected by the members of his or her union in a particular place of work to represent them. Some people, esp. those with RIGHT-WING political views, think that shop stewards have too much power and are likely to persuade workers to go on strike for unimportant reasons

shop·walk·er /ˈʃɒpwɔːkəʳ‖ˈʃɑːp-/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **floorwalker** *esp. AmE*– *n* a person employed in a large shop to help the customers and to watch the SHOP ASSISTANTS to see that they are working properly –compare STORE DETECTIVE

shore¹ /ʃɔːʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] also **shores** *pl.*– the land along the edge of a large area of water, such as an ocean or lake: *We could see a boat about a mile from the shore|off the shore.* | *It was wonderful to see the shores of England again after so long at sea.* | *Many of these birds migrate to our shores* (=to this country) *during the summer.* **2** [U] land rather than the sea: *The sailors were warned not to get into trouble while they were on shore.* (=away from their ship) –see also ASHORE, OFFSHORE, ONSHORE

▷ USAGE The place where the land meets the water can be the **bank, shore, coast, seaside,** or **beach.** The edges of a river are its **banks.** The usual word for the edge of a sea is **shore.** However, we use **coast** when we are thinking of places on maps, of weather, or of naval defence: *It is difficult to walk on such a rocky* **shore.** | *a holiday on the north* **coast** *of Spain.* The **seaside** *BrE*‖**coast** *AmE*, or the **beach** is the area by the sea considered as a place of enjoyment: *digging in the sand at the* **seaside.** A **beach** is part of the shore that is smooth, without cliffs or rocks. The only words that can be used of lakes are **shore** and (of a large lake) **beach.**◁

shore² *v* [T (UP)] to support (something that is in danger of falling) e.g. with a large piece of wood: *We had to shore up the damaged wall.* | (fig.) *They tried to shore up the failing economy by means of tax increases.*

shore leave /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [U] time allowed for sailors to leave their ships and go on shore

shorn /ʃɔːn‖ʃɔːrn/ *past participle of* SHEAR

short¹ /ʃɔːt‖ʃɔːrt/ *adj* **1** measuring a small or smaller than average amount from one end to the other; little in distance or length (opposite **long**) or in height (opposite **tall**): *It's only a short way|distance from here.* | *She had her hair cut short.* | *A straight line is the shortest distance between two points.* | *He's rather a short man, shorter than his wife.* **2** [F+**for**] a shorter (and often more usual) form of, or way of saying: *The word "pub" is short for "public house".* –see also SHORT³ (4) **3** lasting only a little time, or less time than usual or expected: *a short visit of only half an hour* | *She was here a short while ago.* | *I have such a short memory; I can't remember what you told me yesterday.* | *His speech was short and to the point.* | *The signal for the fire alarm is three short rings followed by one long ring.* | *Because of the emergency, a meeting had to be arranged* **at short notice.** (=not a long time in advance) –opposite **long** **4** [(**of**)] not having or providing what is needed; failing to reach an acceptable level or standard: *"I'm short of money this week; can you lend me some?" "Sorry: I'm rather short myself."* | *The shopkeeper was found guilty of using short weights|measures.* | *These goods are* **in short supply** *so the price will be high.* [after *n*] *I need £1 but I'm 5p short: I've only got 95p.* | *Our car broke down only two miles short of the town.* –see LACK (USAGE) **5** [F+**on**] *infml* without very much or enough of (esp. a desirable quality): *He's a nice boy but short on brains.* (=not clever) –opposite **long on** **6** [(**with**)] rudely impatient; CURT: *I'm sorry I was a bit short with you on the phone this morning – I was rather busy.* –see also SHORT-TEMPERED **7** (of a speech sound) pronounced quickly or without force: /æ/, *as in "cat", is a short vowel, but* /ɑː/, *as in "cart", is long.* **8** (of pastry) falling easily into pieces; CRUMBLY **9 make short work of** *infml* to deal with or defeat quickly and easily: *The children made short work of the meal.* **10 nothing short of** (used to add force to a statement) nothing less than: *The closure of the factory will be nothing short of a disaster|of disastrous for the people in the area.* **11 short and sweet** *infml or humor* not wasting time or words; short and direct in expression: *The chairman's speech was short*

and sweet. **12 short of: a** not quite reaching; up to but not including: *We'd tried everything to get our money short of actually suing them.* **b** except for; without: *Short of calling a protest meeting I don't know how we can show our opposition.* —see also SHORTLY **13 short sharp shock** a sudden, unpleasant experience, esp. one intended as a punishment. The phrase originally comes from W S Gilbert's OPERA *The Mikado* (1885), and was later used by British Conservative politicians to describe a system of short but firm punishments for young criminals. —~**ness** *n* [U]

short[2] *adv* **1** suddenly; in an ABRUPT way: *The driver stopped short when the child ran into the street.* | *I'm afraid I must stop you short there, minister, as we're running out of time on the programme.* —see also **stop short of** (STOP[1]) **2 be taken/caught short** *BrE infml* to have a sudden and strong need, esp. to go to the TOILET **3 go short (of)** to be without enough (of): *I'm giving my dinner to the children; they mustn't go short (of food).* **4 run short (of): a** to use almost all one has (of); not have enough left: *We've run short of oil.* **b** to become less than enough: *The supply of oil is running short.* —see also **cut something short** (CUT[1]), **fall short** (FALL[1]), **sell something/someone short** (SELL[1])

short[3] *n* **1** *infml* a short film shown before the main film at a cinema **2** *BrE infml* a drink of strong alcohol, such as WHISKY or GIN **3** *infml for* SHORT CIRCUIT **4 for short** as a shorter way of saying it: *My name is David, or Dave for short.* —see also SHORT[1] (2) **5 in short** to put it into as few words as possible; all I mean is: *This is our most disastrous and embarrassing defeat ever; in short, a fiasco.* —see also SHORTS

short[4] *v* [I;T] *infml for* SHORT-CIRCUIT (1)

short·age /ˈʃɔːtɪdʒ‖ˈʃɔːr-/ *n* [C;U (**of**)] a condition of having less than is needed; an amount lacking: *There were severe food shortages during the war.* | *There's no shortage of skilled workers but there aren't enough jobs for them.*

short back and sides /ˌ· ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [S] *BrE* a man's haircut in which the hair round the ears and at the back of the neck is cut very short. Men in the armed forces usually have haircuts like this.

short·bread /ˈʃɔːtbred‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *n* [U] a hard sweet BISCUIT made with a lot of butter

short·cake /ˈʃɔːtkeɪk‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *n* [U] **1** *BrE* thick shortbread **2** *AmE* cake, usu. of a kind like SCONES, over which sweetened fruit is poured: *strawberry shortcake*

short-change /ˌ· ˈ·/ *v* [T] **1** to give back less than enough money to (a buyer who has paid for something with more than the exact money) **2** *infml* to cheat or fail to reward fairly: *When the band only played for 15 minutes the fans felt they had been shortchanged.*

short-cir·cuit /ˌ· ˈ··/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) have a SHORT CIRCUIT **2** [T] to get something done without going through; BYPASS: *I short-circuited the usual procedures by a simple telephone call.*

short circuit *n* a faulty electrical connection that makes the current flow along the wrong path and so usu. puts the power supply out of operation

short·com·ing /ˈʃɔːtˌkʌmɪŋ‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a fault; failing; DEFECT: *In spite of all her shortcomings I still think she's one of the best teachers in the school.* | *The inspection revealed serious shortcomings in our safety procedures.*

short·crust pas·try /ˌʃɔːtkrʌst ˈpeɪstri‖ˌʃɔːrt-/ *n* a pastry used for PIES, FLANS, etc., made with half as much fat as flour

short cut /ˌ· ˈ·, ˈ· ·‖ˈ· ·/ *n* [(**to**)] a quicker more direct way than the usual way: *We were late for school, so we took a short cut across the fields.* | (fig.) *There aren't really any short cuts to learning English.*

short·en /ˈʃɔːtn‖ˈʃɔːrtn/ *v* [I;T] to make or become shorter: *to shorten a skirt/a report* —opposite **lengthen**

short·ening /ˈʃɔːtnɪŋ‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *n* [U] fat for combining with flour in pastry mixtures

short·fall /ˈʃɔːtfɔːl‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *n* [(**of, in**)] an amount by which something fails to reach the amount that is needed, expected, or hoped for: *We now expect a shortfall of about £1 million in the company's profits because of the sudden rise in the cost of materials.*

short·hand /ˈʃɔːthænd‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *n* [U] **1** also **stenography** *AmE*— fast writing in a system using signs or shorter forms for letters, words, phrases, etc.: *The secretary made notes in shorthand/made shorthand notes.* —compare LONGHAND **2** [(**for**)] a shorter and often purposely less clear way of expressing something: *He's been "relocated", which is government shorthand for "given a worse job a long way away".*

short·hand·ed /ˌʃɔːtˈhændɪd◂‖ˌʃɔːrt-/ *adj* lacking the necessary number of helpers or workers: *A lot of people are on holiday this month, so we're a bit shorthanded.*

shorthand typ·ist /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ also **stenographer** *esp. AmE*— *n* a person who uses shorthand to write down what someone is saying, and then types (TYPE[2]) a copy of it

short-haul /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] (of an aircraft flight) covering a fairly short distance —compare LONG-HAUL

short·ie /ˈʃɔːti‖ˈʃɔːrti/ *n humor derog* SHORTY

short-list /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T (**for**) *usu. pass.*] *BrE* to put on a SHORT LIST: *He's been short-listed for the director's job.*

short list *n BrE* a list of the few most suitable people for a job, chosen from all the people who were considered at first: *She was on the short list for the position of director.* | *to draw up a short list*

short-lived /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (esp. of a feeling or condition) lasting only for a short period: *Their opposition to the plan was short-lived.*

short·ly /ˈʃɔːtli‖ˈʃɔːrt-/ *adv* **1** soon; (in) a little time: *Ms Jones will be back shortly.* | *The President returned to work shortly after his operation.* **2** impatiently; not politely; in a SHORT[1] (6) way: *She answered me rather shortly.* **3** in a few words

short-or·der cook /ˈ· ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a cook in a restaurant such as a COFFEE SHOP who cooks foods that do not need a lot of preparation and which cook quickly, such as HAMBURGERS

short-range /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] of or covering a short distance or a short time: *short-range weather forecasts* | *a short-range missile*

shorts /ʃɔːts‖ʃɔːrts/ *n* [P] **1** short trousers ending at or above the knees, as worn in playing games, in hot weather, or by children. Shorts are usually worn in rather informal situations. **2** *esp. AmE* men's short UNDERPANTS —see PAIR (USAGE)

short-sheet /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T] *AmE infml* to rearrange the sheet on someone's bed, so that the sheet that would usually cover someone's feet is too short (usu. done as a joke, esp. at SUMMER CAMPS in the US) —compare APPLE-PIE BED

short shrift /ˌʃɔːt ˈʃrɪft‖ˌʃɔːrt-/ *n* [U] unfairly quick or unsympathetic treatment, giving little attention: *My suggestion was given short shrift.* | *The armed forces are well funded but education is getting short shrift.*

short·sight·ed /ˌʃɔːtˈsaɪtɪd◂‖ˌʃɔːrt-/ *adj* **1** *esp. BrE* ‖ **near-sighted** *esp. AmE*— unable to see objects clearly if they are not close to the eyes —opposite **longsighted** **2** *derog* not considering the likely future effects of present action; lacking FORESIGHT: *It's very shortsighted (of you) not to spend money on repairing your house.* —opposite **far-sighted** —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

short-staffed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* without enough workers: *If you're looking for a job, I hear they're very short-staffed at the biscuit factory.*

short·stop /ˈʃɔːtstɒp‖ˈʃɔːrtstɑːp/ *n* (in BASEBALL) the player who plays in the area between second and third BASE[1] (6) and tries to stop any balls that are hit into that area —see picture at BASEBALL

short sto·ry /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a short invented written story, shorter than a NOVEL, usu. containing only a few characters and often dealing with feelings rather than events

short-tem·pered /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** getting angry early: *He's rather short-tempered these days.* **2** showing impatience and anger: *a short-tempered reply*

short-term , short term /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj, n* [*the*+S] (concerning) a short period of time; (in or for) the near future: *short-term planning/borrowing* | *This is only a short-term solution to our problems.* | *Profits will fall in the short term, but should start to rise again next year.* —opposite **long-term**

short time /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] *BrE* work at a factory, office, etc.,

for a shorter than usual period each day or week: *Workers were put on short time because raw materials were scarce.*

short wave /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] radio broadcasting or receiving on waves of less than 60 metres in length, which can be sent around the world —compare LONG WAVE, MEDIUM WAVE

short·y , shortie /ˈʃɔːti‖ˈʃɔːrti/ *n humor derog* (used when speaking to or about a short person)

Sho·sho·ne /ʃəʊˈʃəʊni/ *n* a Native American group of tribes which lived between southeast California and West Wyoming, hunting BUFFALO. Later, the Comanche tribes separated from the group and moved to what is now Texas, and today there are about 8000 Shoshone on RESERVATIONS (3) —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

Shos·ta·ko·vich /ˌʃɒstəˈkəʊvɪtʃ‖ˌʃɑːs-/, **Di·mi·tri** /dɪˈmiːtri/ (1906–75) a Russian COMPOSER. His most famous works include an OPERA *The Lady Macbeth of the Mtensk* (1934), the *Ninth Symphony* (1945), and the *Tenth Symphony* (1953).

shot[1] /ʃɒt‖ʃɑːt/ *n* **1** [C] the action of shooting a weapon or the sound that it makes: *She fired three shots.* | (fig.) *With this speech he has* **fired the opening shots** (=taken the first action) *in the election campaign.* | *I heard a shot.* **2** [C] a kick, hit, throw, etc., of a ball in an attempt to make a point in a game: *His shot went wide of/to the right of the goal.* | *Watson won the golf match by two shots.* | *Good shot!* **3** [C] a person who shoots with the stated degree of skill: *She's a good/crack* (=very good)*/poor shot.* **4** [C (**at**) *usu. sing.*] *infml* a chance or attempt to do something; GO[2] (2): *It's a difficult job but I'd like (to have) a shot at it.* **5** [U] nonexplosive metal in the form of balls for shooting from SHOTGUNS or from CANNONS in former times —see also BUCKSHOT, GRAPESHOT **6** [C] the heavy metal ball used in the SHOT PUT **7** [C] *infml* a photograph: *I got some good shots of the carnival.* **8** [C] a single part of a cinema film made by one camera without interruption: *an action shot* **9** [C] *infml* a taking of a drug or VACCINE into the bloodstream through a needle; INJECTION: *a shot of penicillin* **10** [C] *infml* a sending up of a spacecraft or ROCKET: *a moon shot* (=for a journey to the moon) **11** [C] *infml* a chance with the stated degree of risk: *The horse is an 8 to 5 shot to win the race.* —see also LONG SHOT **12** [C (**of**)] *esp. AmE* a small alcoholic drink for swallowing at once: *a shot of vodka | a shot glass* **13 like a shot** *infml* without any delay and esp. eagerly: *When he offered me the job, I accepted like a shot.* **14 not by a ˈlong shot** *esp. AmE* not at all; not by any means: *The problem isn't solved yet, not by a long shot.* **15 shot across the bows** something done or said as a warning to someone not to carry out a plan **16 shot in the arm** *infml* something that has the effect of producing a better, more active and more confident condition: *Everyone agrees that the economy needs a shot in the arm from a consumer spending spree.* **17 shot in the dark** *infml* a guess unsupported by arguments —see also BIG SHOT, PARTING SHOT, **call the shots** (CALL[1]) **18 cheap shot** *AmE infml derog* a nasty INSULT (=a rude of offensive remark): *That was a cheap shot, saying she was fat and stupid!*

shot[2] *adj* **1** [F+**of**] *BrE infml* rid of; finished with: *I was glad to* **be/get shot of** *that nasty cold.* **2** [(**with**)] woven in two different colours, one along and one across the material, giving a changing effect of colour: *a dress of shot silk.* **3** [F] *infml* destroyed or worn out because of hard treatment: *My nerves are shot; I need a holiday.* **4 shot through with** *esp. lit* having a lot of (a particular quality) in a mixture; full of: *His stories are shot through with a gentle sadness.*

shot[3] *past tense & participle of* SHOOT

shot·gun /ˈʃɒtgʌn‖ˈʃɑːt-/ *n* a gun fired from the shoulder, usu. having two barrels and firing SHOT[1] (5), esp. to kill birds —see also SAWN-OFF SHOTGUN

shotgun wed·ding /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n often humor* a wedding that has to take place, usu. because the woman is going to have a baby and her parents want her and the baby to be publicly respectable. In CARTOONS the man and woman are often shown with the woman's father holding a shotgun to force the man to marry his daughter.

shot put /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*the*+S] a sporting competition to throw a heavy metal ball (SHOT[1] (6)) the furthest distance —see colour picture on page 883 —**~ter** *n* : *an Olympic shot putter*

should /ʃəd; *strong* ʃʊd/ *v 3rd person sing.* **should**, *negative short form* **shouldn't** [*modal+to-v*] **1 a** (expressing duty or what is necessary or desirable) ought to: *If you see anything unusual you should call the police.* | *He shouldn't have/oughtn't to have said that.* (=he said it but it was bad to do so) | *You shouldn't be so impatient with him.* | *They should be made to repay the money they stole.* | (showing annoyance) *Why shouldn't I buy a new coat – I haven't bought one for five years!* **b** (expressing likelihood, esp. of a desirable event or result) will probably: *The photos should be ready (by) tomorrow morning.* | *It should be fairly easy to get her to agree.* | *There shouldn't be any difficulty about getting you a visa.* **2** (used after **that** in certain expressions of feeling or opinion): *It's odd that you should mention him.* (=The fact that you have mentioned him is odd.) | *I was anxious that our plan should not fail.* | *I suggest that John should go/*(*AmE* also) *that John go.* | *They demanded that there should be an official inquiry.* **3** *fml* (used in conditional sentences about what is possible in the future): *I don't think it will happen, but if it should, what shall we do?* | *Should you be interested* (=if you are), *I have a book on the subject you might like to see.* **4** (used for turning direct statements into questions, usu. for expressing amusement or surprise): *As I left the house, who should come to meet me but my old friend Sam!* (=my old friend Sam came to meet me) | *At that point, what should happen but (that) the car wouldn't start.* **5** *fml or old-fash, esp. BrE* **a** (used instead of **shall** in conditional sentences with **I** and **we** as the subject and a past tense verb): *I should be surprised if he came.* | I *should* (=you ought to) *stay in bed if I were you.* **b** (in reported speech) shall: *I promised I should be back before nightfall.* (=I said "I shall be back before nightfall".) **6** *infml humor* (expressing the opposite meaning) ought not to; needn't: *With all his money, he should worry about a little thing like £5!* **7 I should have thought** *fml, esp. BrE* (in remarks expressing surprise or sometimes annoyance): *Twenty degrees? I should have thought it was colder than that.* **8 I should like** *fml or polite, esp. BrE* I want: *I should like to ask the minister a question.* | *I should like a bath.* —see LIKE[1] (USAGE) **9 I should think** I believe or expect: *"Can you come?" "Yes, I should think so."* | *I shouldn't think this will cause any problems.* **10 I should think so!/not!** of course!/of course not!: *"We all went to a disco, but Granny didn't join us." "I should think not, at her age!"* —see OUGHT (USAGE) and LANGUAGE NOTE: Modals

▷ USAGE In meanings **5, 7,** and **8, should** is rather formal in modern English, and **would** is more common. In all the other meanings **should** is the ordinary word to use. —see also BETTER (USAGE), MUST (USAGE), NOT (USAGE), OUGHT (USAGE)◁

shoul·der[1] /ˈʃəʊldəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] the part of the body at each side of the neck where the arm of a person, or the FORELEG of an animal, is connected: *He had a parrot on his right shoulder.* | *Put this coat over your shoulders in case you get cold.* | *With the heavy pack on her shoulders* (=the shoulders and upper part of the back) *she couldn't run very fast.* | *He just* **shrugged his shoulders** (=raised them) *and said he didn't care what she thought.* —see picture at HORSE **2** [C] the part of a garment that covers this part of the body: *a jacket with wide shoulders* **3** [C] something shaped like a shoulder or pair of shoulders, such as **a** a slope near the top of a mountain **b** the outward curve of a bottle below the neck —see picture at MOUNTAIN **4** [C;U] the upper part of the front leg of an animal, used as meat: *a shoulder of lamb* **5 a shoulder to cry on** (someone from whom one gets) sympathy: *After my divorce I needed a shoulder to cry on.* **6 put one's shoulder to the wheel** to start to work with great effort and determination **7 shoulder to shoulder** side by side; close together: (fig.) *We stand shoulder to shoulder on this issue.* (=have the same opinions, intentions, etc.) —see also COLD SHOULDER, HARD SHOULDER, **have a chip on one's shoulder** (CHIP[1]), **head and shoulders above** (HEAD[1]), **rub shoulders with** (RUB[1]), **straight from the shoulder** (STRAIGHT[2])

shoulder[2] *v* [T] **1 a** to place (a load) on one's shoulder(s) **b** to accept (a heavy responsibility, duty, etc.): *The local residents are being asked to shoulder the costs of the repairs.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to push with the shoulders: *He shouldered his way to the front, shouldering others*

aside. **3 shoulder arms** [*usu. imperative*] (of a soldier) to hold a weapon upright so that it touches or rests on one shoulder

shoulder bag /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a bag that hangs from the shoulder on a band of leather

shoulder blade /ˈ·· ·/ also **scapula** *med– n* either of the two flat bones on each side of the upper back –see picture at SKELETON

shoulder-high /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* as high as one's shoulder: *I've got a shoulder-high filing cabinet I want to sell.*

shoulder-length /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of hair) reaching one's shoulders: *shoulder-length brown hair*

shoulder pad /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a fairly thick flat piece of material or FOAM RUBBER which is fixed under the shoulders of a woman's piece of clothing. As well as for style, shoulder pads are thought to be worn by women to express power or authority: *female executives wearing suits with shoulder pads* –see POWER DRESSING

shoulder strap /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a narrow band of material on a dress, etc., that goes over the shoulder and holds it up **2** a wide band of material which is fixed to an object to make it easy to carry, by hanging it from the shoulder: *My suitcase has a shoulder strap.* | *a briefcase with a leather shoulder strap*

should·n't /ˈʃʊdnt/ *short for:* should not –see OUGHT (USAGE)

shouldst /ʃədst; *strong* ʃʊdst/ **thou shouldst** *old use or bibl* you should

shout[1] /ʃaʊt/ *v* [I;T (OUT)] **1** to make a loud sound with the voice; speak or say very loudly: *I can hear you all right; there's no need to shout.* | *He shouted for help.* | *I wish you'd stop shouting* (=speaking loudly and angrily) *at the children.* | *The crowd shouted slogans and threw stones at the police.* | *She shouted out a warning.* | *"Help!" he shouted.* | *I shouted to him to stop.* [+*obj*+*adj*] *He shouted himself hoarse.* (=made his voice rough and weak by shouting so much) **2 all over bar the shouting** *BrE infml* almost finished, so that the result is no longer in doubt: *England were leading 6–1 at half time, so it was all over bar the shouting.* **3 shout something from the rooftops** to let everyone know about something,

shout sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to prevent from being heard, by shouting: *The crowd shouted down the unpopular speaker.*

shout[2] *n* **1** [C] a loud cry or call: *a warning shout* | *shouts of delight from the football crowd* **2** [S] *BrE or AustrE infml* a particular person's turn to buy drinks for others: *It's my shout; would you like another beer?*

shove[1] /ʃʌv/ *v* **1** [I; T] to push, esp. in a rough or careless way: *There was a lot of* **pushing and shoving** *to get on the bus.* | *They shoved me aside to get at the food.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to put (something) carelessly: *Just shove it in the cupboard.* | *He quickly shoved the papers into his pocket*/*under the desk.* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*] *infml, esp. BrE* to move oneself: *Shove over, mate, and make some room for me to sit down.*

shove sbdy. **around** *phr v* [T] *infml* to push rudely and/or give orders to: *Don't let him shove you around.*

shove off *phr v* [I] **1** (of a boat or the person in it) to leave the shore **2** [*usu. imperative*] *infml, not polite* to go away; leave: *Shove off! I'm busy.*

shove[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] a strong push: *We gave the car a good shove and moved it out of the mud.*

shove-half·penny /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] (in Britain) a game, usu. played in PUBS, in which coins are pushed across a board with a sharp TAP[4] from one's hand

shov·el[1] /ˈʃʌvəl/ *n* **1** a tool with a broad usu. square or rounded blade fixed to a handle, used for lifting and moving loose material –compare SPADE[1] **2** a part like this on a digging or earth-moving machine

shovel[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I;T] to take up, move, make, or work (as if) with a shovel: *He shovelled away the snow.* | *She shovelled the food greedily into her mouth.*

show[1] /ʃəʊ/ *v* **showed, shown** /ʃəʊn/ *or* **showed** **1** [T (**to**)] to offer for seeing; allow or cause to be seen: *He showed his ticket at the door.* | *She never shows her feelings.* | *The news report showed harrowing pictures of the famine victims.* | *She's beginning to* **show her age.** (=seem as old as she really is) | *The patient is* **showing signs of** *improvement.* (=seems to be improving) | *I showed my driving licence to the policeman.* [+*obj*(*i*)+*obj*(*d*)] *She showed me the picture she'd painted.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *The photograph showed the baby laughing.* **2** [I] to appear or be noticeable; be able to be seen: *Don't worry about that tiny stain; it won't show.* | *He was very upset but he didn't let it show.* | *The lights showed faintly through the mist.* | *His happiness showed in his smile.* | *She did very little work on this report, and it shows!* (=it is very clear to see) **3** [T+*obj*+*wh-*] to point out to: *He showed me where he lived.* | *Show me which book you have chosen.* **4** [T] to have as a mark or number; INDICATE or REGISTER: *The clock showed 20 minutes past 2.* | *The latest results show a 15% rise in our profits.* **5** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to go with and guide or direct: *May I show you to your seat?* | *Show the gentleman in*/*out, please.* –see also SHOW **around,** SHOW **over** **6** [T] to explain; make clear to (someone) by words or esp. actions: *Don't just tell me how to do it; show me.* [+*obj*+*wh-*] *The introduction shows you how to use the dictionary.* **7** [T] to prove; allow the truth of to be seen: *This excellent piece of work shows*/**just goes to show** *what is possible if you try hard.* [+(*that*)] *The report shows that the police are still popular with the majority of the public.* | *His remarks showed he didn't understand what we were talking about.* [(+*obj*)+*wh-*] *Only six people passed the exam, which shows (you) how difficult it was.* [+*obj*+*n, adj*] *The results show her to be cleverer than we thought.* | *He showed himself a brave man in battle.* | *The report showed the accident to have been the driver's fault.* **8** [T *not in progressive forms*] (esp. of a material) to allow to be easily seen: *This light-coloured dress will show the dirt.* **9** [I;T] to offer or be offered as a performance, esp. at a cinema: *"What's showing at the cinema?" "They're showing a Marx Brothers film."* **10** [T] to put on view, esp. to be judged at a SHOW[2] (2); EXHIBIT: *His paintings are being shown at the local art gallery.* **11** [T] to cause to be felt or noticed in one's actions: *The government has shown very little understanding of this problem.* | *You should show a bit more respect to your teachers.* [+*obj*(*i*)+*obj*(*d*)] *They showed their enemies no mercy.* **12** [I] *sl for* SHOW **up** (4): *I came to meet my friend, but he never showed.* **13 show a clean pair of heels** *BrE old-fash infml* to run away fast **14 show a leg** [*usu. imperative*] *BrE infml* to get out of bed **15 show one's face** to make an appearance in a place that people expected one to avoid: *I'm surprised he dares to show his face here after the way he behaved last week.* **16 show one's hand** to make one's power or intentions clear, esp. after keeping them secret for a time **17 show one's teeth: a** to act threateningly **b** to make one's power clear **18 show someone** *infml* to prove to someone that one is better, more effective, etc., than they are, or than they think one is: *Well, he really showed* her*!* (=he proved he was correct/better/etc.) | *My Dad says I'm too little to ride a horse all by myself, but I'll show him!* (=I'll prove that I'm not) **19 show someone the door** to make it clear that someone is not welcome and should leave **20 show someone who's boss** *infml* to prove to someone who is threatening one's authority that one is more powerful than them: *That jumped-up little clerk! I'll soon show him who's boss!* **21 show the way** to set an example for others' future work: *With its low-cost home computers the company has shown the way (into this very profitable market).* **22 to show for** [*usu. in questions or negatives*] as a profit or reward from: *He had nothing to show for his life's work except a lot of memories.*

show sbdy. **around**/**round** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] to be a guide to (someone) on a first visit to (a place): *Before you start work, I'll show you around (the building) so that you can meet everyone.*

show off *phr v* **1** [I] *derog* to behave so as to try to get attention and admiration for oneself, one's abilities, etc.: *I wish you'd stop showing off – we all know how clever you are!* –see also SHOW-OFF **2** [T] (**show** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **off**) to show proudly or to the best effect: *He couldn't wait to show off his new car to his friends.* | *The white dress showed off her dark skin.*

show sbdy. **over** sthg. *phr v* [T] *esp. BrE* to guide through (esp. an interesting building or a house for sale): *The director showed the Prime Minister over the new production plant.*

show up *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**show** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to (cause to) be easily and clearly seen: *The cracks in the wall show up in the sunlight; the sunlight shows them up.* | *The unexpected riots showed up the deficiencies in police training.* **2** [T] (**show** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**) to make clear the

unpleasant truth about: *I intend to show up this deception|show up this man for the liar he is.* **3** [T] (**show** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to cause to feel shame; EMBARRASS: *When we go to parties my husband always shows me up by telling rude jokes.* **4** [I] *infml* to arrive as expected or arranged: *Did everyone you invited show up?*

show[2] *n* **1** [C] a performance, esp. in a theatre or NIGHTCLUB or on radio or television: *a popular comedy show on TV | Let's go out and see a show, or perhaps a film.* —see also CHAT SHOW, FLOOR SHOW, GAME SHOW **2** [C] a public showing; collection of things for the public to look at; EXHIBITION: *a cat|flower|car show | They're holding a one-woman show of her paintings at the gallery.* **3** [S+**of**] a showing of some quality; DISPLAY: *a little show of bad temper | The occupying army staged a big military parade as* **a show of strength.** —see also SHOW OF HANDS **4** [S (**of**)] an outward appearance, esp. as opposed to what is really true; PRETENCE: *I made a show of interest|of being interested, but I really couldn't have cared less.* **5** [U] *usu. derog* grandness; splendid appearance or ceremony; OSTENTATION: *All this ceremony is just empty show|is just done for show; it doesn't mean a thing.* **6** [S] *infml* an organization, field of activity, etc.: *She's the boss, in charge of the whole show. | Who's running this show?* **7** [S] *infml* an effort of the stated kind; attempt: *Our team* **put up a poor show** (=performed badly) *in the final and lost heavily.* **8 get this show on the road** *infml* to start to work or start a trip or journey **9 on show** being shown to the public: *All the items will be on show until the day of the sale.* **10 the show must go on** *saying* nothing must be allowed to stop a performance, event, etc.; life must continue in spite of difficulties —see also **Good show** (GOOD[1]), **steal the show** (STEAL[1])

show[3] *adj* [A] complete with furniture, decorations, etc., so as to give possible buyers a good idea of what other similar houses, flats, etc., for sale will be like: *a show house|flat*

show and tell /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* an activity for young children in school in which they bring an object and tell the class about it: *Ramona brought in a fossil for show and tell.*

show busi·ness /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **show·biz** /ˈʃəʊbɪz/*infml*— *n* [U] **1** the entertainment business; the job of people who work in television, films, the theatre, etc.: *She's in show business. | a well-known show business personality* **2 That's show business!** (an expression used to suggest that one should not be too disappointed, unhappy, etc., because life is just hard sometimes) **3 There's no business like show business** the first line of an old popular song

show·case /ˈʃəʊkeɪs/ *n* a glass-sided box in which objects are placed for looking at in a shop or MUSEUM: *The thieves smashed the showcase and stole the vase. |* (fig.) *Her new one-woman programme is a good showcase for her talents.* (=allows them to be seen in the best possible way)

show·down /ˈʃəʊdaʊn/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a settlement of a quarrel or matter of disagreement in an open direct way: *He and I are heading for a showdown over this problem.*

show·er[1] /ˈʃaʊəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] a fall of rain (or snow) lasting a short time: *Scattered showers are expected this afternoon. | Snow showers are forecast for later.* —see also SHOWERY; see RAIN (USAGE) **2** [C (**of**)] a fall or sudden rush of many small things or drops of liquid: *a shower of water|sparks|confetti* **3** [C] **a** an act of washing the body by standing under running water: *She's having|taking a shower.* —see also COLD SHOWER **b** an apparatus for this, from which water flows out through many small holes and which is usu. in an enclosure in a bathroom **4** [S+*sing.*/*pl. v*] *BrE infml derog* a group of unpleasant, worthless, lazy, etc., people **5** [C] *AmE* a party given on a special occasion by a woman's friends at which they give her suitable gifts: *a wedding shower | a baby shower* (=for a new mother)

shower[2] *v* **1** [I] to rain or pour down in showers: *It's started to shower; you'd better take your umbrella. | Nuts showered down when we shook the tree.* **2** [T] to scatter heavily (on); pour: [+*obj*+**with**] *The pipe burst, showering us with oil.* [+*obj*+**on**] *It showered oil on us. |* (fig.) *She was showered with compliments|gifts. |* (fig.) *Honours were showered on him.* **3** [I] to have a SHOWER[1] (3a)

shower gel /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a kind of LIQUID soap used to wash yourself in the shower

shower head /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the top part of a SHOWER[1] (3b) out of which the water comes

show·er·proof /ˈʃaʊəpruːf‖ˈʃaʊər-/ *adj* (of a piece of clothing, etc.) not allowing much or any rain to pass through: *This raincoat is useless and they said it was showerproof.*

shower tray /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the bottom part of a SHOWER[1] (3b) in which you stand while having a shower

show·er·y /ˈʃaʊəri/ *adj* (of weather) bringing rain from time to time but not for long: *a showery day*

show·girl /ˈʃəʊgɜːl‖-gɜːrl/ *n* a girl in a group of singers or dancers, usu. in very fancy dress, in a musical show

show·ing /ˈʃəʊɪŋ/ *n* **1** [S] a record of success or quality; performance: *After its poor showing in last night's game, the team is unlikely to reach the finals. | On its current showing* (=according to the way it is performing now) *the party should do well in the forthcoming election.* **2** [C] an act of putting on view: *We're going to a showing of his latest paintings. | a special showing of the movie "King Kong"*

show jump·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *BrE* a form of horseriding competition judged on ability and often speed in jumping a course of fences —**-er** *n*

show·man /ˈʃəʊmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** a person whose business is producing plays, musical shows, public entertainments, etc.: *a fairground showman* **2** a person who is good at gaining public attention: *In local politics it helps to be a bit of a showman.* —**~ship** *n* [U]

shown /ʃəʊn/ *past participle of* SHOW[1]

show-off /ˈ· ·/ *n infml derog* a person who SHOWS **off** (1): *He's such a show-off!*

show of hands /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [S] a vote taken by counting the raised hands of voters: *The chairman took a show of hands.*

show·piece /ˈʃəʊpiːs/ *n* a fine example fit to be admired by everyone: *This Ming vase is the showpiece of my collection. | a showpiece factory*

show·place /ˈʃəʊpleɪs/ *n* a place which is open to or visited by the public because of its beauty, historical interest, etc.: *Visit Warwick Castle, showplace of the Midlands.*

show·room /ˈʃəʊrʊm, -ruːm/ *n* a large room where examples of goods for sale can be looked at: *a car|furniture showroom*

show·stop·ping /ˈʃəʊstɒpɪŋ‖-stɑː-/ *adj apprec* so good that the watchers' expressions of approval interrupt the performance: *a showstopping song-and-dance act* —**-per** *n*

Show·time /ˈʃəʊtaɪm/ a CABLE television CHANNEL in the US which shows films and other programmes

show trial /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n usu. derog.* a trial set up by a government mainly to produce an effect on public opinion, rather than to find out if someone is guilty. Show trials are used usually by TOTALITARIAN governments: *A series of show trials were staged after the rebellion.*

show·y /ˈʃəʊi/ *adj usu. derog* very colourful, bright, attention-getting, etc., but usu. without much real beauty, skill, etc.: *a showy person|dress* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

shrank /ʃræŋk/ *past tense of* SHRINK

shrap·nel /ˈʃræpnəl/ *n* [U] metal scattered in small pieces from an exploding bomb or SHELL[1] (2): *He suffers from an old shrapnel wound.*

shred[1] /ʃred/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** [C *often pl.*] a small narrow piece torn or roughly cut off: *a shred of tobacco|cloth | My scarf was* **in shreds** (=completely torn up) *after the dog had chewed it up. |* (fig.) *He came out of the meeting with his reputation in shreds.* (=completely ruined) —see also **tear something to shreds** (TEAR[2]) **2** [S *usu. in negatives*] a smallest piece; bit: *There's not a shred of truth* (=no truth at all) *in his statement.* —see picture at PIECE

shred[2] *v* **-dd-** [T] **1** to cut or tear into shreds: *Coleslaw is made with shredded cabbage.* **2** to put through a SHREDDER (2): *Shred these documents before anyone sees them.*

Shredded Wheat /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a type of breakfast CEREAL (2). A well-known advertisement in Britain challenges (CHALLENGE) people to eat three Shredded Wheat, and suggests that anyone who can will be successful at any physical activity they do.

shred·der /ˈʃredəʳ/ *n* **1** a kitchen tool for shredding food **2** a machine which tears paper into very small pieces that cannot be read: *Put the secret documents in|through the shredder.*

shrew /ʃruː/ *n* **1** a very small mouselike animal with a long pointed nose **2** *lit* a bad-tempered woman

shrewd /ʃruːd/ *adj* **1** showing good practical judgment, esp. of what is to one's own advantage: *a shrewd judge of other people's ability* | *a shrewd lawyer|businesswoman* **2** well-reasoned and likely to be right: *a shrewd guess* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

shrew·ish /ˈʃruːɪʃ/ *adj lit* being or typical of a bad-tempered woman —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Shrews·bu·ry /ˈʃrəʊzbəri‖ˈʃruːzberi/ a town in England close to the border with Wales where the local government for Shropshire is based

shriek /ʃriːk/ *v* [I;T] to make or say with a wild high cry, usu. resulting from anger, excitement, or fear: *"Help!" she shrieked.* | *They were all shrieking with laughter.* — **shriek** *n* : *He gave a shriek of terror.*

shrift *n* see SHORT SHRIFT

shrike /ʃraɪk/ *n* a type of greyish bird with a hooked beak, which feeds on insects and other small creatures

shrill /ʃrɪl/ *adj* **1** (of a sound) high and sounding sharp or even painful to the ear; PIERCING: *a shrill whistle* **2** (of words or people) marked by continuous expressions of angry disapproval; STRIDENT: *The newspapers became even shriller in their attacks.* —~**ness** *n* [U] —**shrilly** /ˈʃrɪl-li, ˈʃrɪli/ *adv*

shrimp /ʃrɪmp/ *n* **1** a small CRUSTACEAN (=sea creature with an outer shell) with ten legs and a FAN-shaped tail —compare PRAWN **2** *AmE* a PRAWN **3** *derog, usu. humor* a small person

shrimp cock·tail /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] an American dish served before the main course of a meal consisting of PRAWNS with a hot-tasting tomato sauce

shrine /ʃraɪn/ *n* **1** a place for religious worship which is considered holy: *an ancient shrine* | *to go on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St James* **2** a container holding the remains of a holy person's body **3** a place held in respect because of its connections with a famous person or event: *Stratford, the shrine of Shakespeare*

Shrin·er /ˈʃraɪnəʳ/ *n* (in the US) a member of a secret organization that admits Masons of high rank. They are known to Americans mostly for their CHARITY work for children, and for their travelling CIRCUS.

shrink[1] /ʃrɪŋk/ *v* **shrank** /ʃræŋk/*or* **shrunk** /ʃrʌŋk/, **shrunk** **1** [I; T] to (cause to) become smaller (as if) from the effect of heat or water: *Washing wool in hot water will shrink it|make it shrink.* | *Meat shrinks by losing some of its fat in cooking.* | *The number of students has shrunk (from 120 to 75).* | *shrinking profits* | *the shrinking pound* (=becoming lower and lower in value) —see also PRESHRUNK, SHRUNKEN **2** [I+*adv|prep*] *esp. lit* to move back and away, esp. because of fear: *Fearing a beating, the dog shrank into a corner.*

shrink from sthg. *phr v* [T+*obj|v-ing*] to avoid or be unwilling to do (something difficult or unpleasant): *He shrank from (the thought of) having to kill anyone.*

shrink[2] *n humor, infml* a PSYCHOANALYST OR PSYCHIATRIST

shrink·age /ˈʃrɪŋkɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the act or amount of shrinking; loss in size: *As a result of shrinkage, the shirt is now too small to wear.* | *a further shrinkage in the size of the work force*

shrinking vi·o·let /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n humor, infml* someone who lacks self-confidence; a SHY person

shrink-wrap /ˈ· ·/ *v* **-pp-** [T] to enclose (a product) in clear plastic film which is then shrunk, usu. by heating, to make a tight fit: *I don't like markets that shrink-wrap the vegetables.* —~**ped** *adj*

shriv·el /ˈʃrɪvəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) dry out and become smaller, twisting into small folds: *The crops had (been) shrivelled up in the dry heat.* | (fig.) *a shrivelled old man*

Shrop·shire /ˈʃrɒpʃəʳ‖ˈʃrɑːp-/ a COUNTY in W England near the border with Wales. Its local government is based at Shrewsbury.

shroud[1] /ʃraʊd/ *n* **1** also **winding sheet**— a cloth for covering a dead body for burial —see also TURIN SHROUD **2** something that covers and hides: *A shroud of secrecy hangs over|surrounds the plan.*

shroud[2] *v* [T (**in**) *usu. pass.*] to cover and hide: *The hills were shrouded in mist.* | *The whole affair was shrouded in mystery.*

Shrove Tues·day /ˌʃrəʊv ˈtjuːzdi‖-ˈtuː-/ [C;U] the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of the solemn period of Lent when Christians FAST and eat only certain foods. In Britain many people make PANCAKES on Shrove Tuesday, so it is also informally called Pancake Day — see also ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT, MARDI GRAS

shrub /ʃrʌb/ *n* a low bush with several woody stems: *The azalea is an attractive shrub.* | *shrub roses* | *ornamental shrubs*

shrub·be·ry /ˈʃrʌbəri/ *n* [C;U] (a part of a garden planted with) shrubs forming a mass or group

shrug[1] /ʃrʌg/ *v* **-gg-** [I;T] to raise (one's shoulders), usu. as an expression of doubt or lack of interest, or because one does not know about something: *She just shrugged (her shoulders), saying she didn't know and didn't care.*

shrug sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to treat as unimportant or easily dealt with: *She just shrugs off the pain and gets on with the job.* | *to shrug off criticism* | *This is a serious problem and it can't just be shrugged off as if it didn't exist.*

shrug[2] *n* an act of shrugging: *She answered with a shrug (of her shoulders).* | *He just gave a shrug.*

shrunk /ʃrʌŋk/ *past tense & participle of* SHRINK[1]

shrunk·en /ˈʃrʌŋkən/ *adj* [A] *fml or lit* having been shrunk (SHRINK[1]): *They kept the shrunken heads of their enemies as war trophies.* | *a further decline in our already shrunken motor industry*

shtick /ʃtɪk/ *n AmE infml* a piece of acting, usu. meant to be amusing, which always follows the same sort of pattern: *The movie goes from comic shtick to problem-drama shtick, and fuses them.*

shuck[1] /ʃʌk/ *n esp. AmE* an outer covering, esp. of a plant —see also SHUCKS

shuck[2] *v* [T] *esp. AmE* to remove (esp. a vegetable) from an outer covering: *He was shucking peas.*

shucks /ʃʌks/ *interj AmE infml* (an inoffensive expression of annoyance or disappointment): *"I'm not going." "Aw, shucks. I was hoping you would."*

shud·der[1] /ˈʃʌdəʳ/ *v* [I (**at**)] to shake uncontrollably for a moment, esp. from fear, cold, or strong dislike; tremble: *I shuddered at the sight of the dead body.* | *She slammed on the brakes and the car shuddered to a halt.* [+*to-v*] (fig.) *I* **shudder to think** *how big the bill will be!* (=I am afraid it will be very high)

shudder[2] *n* an act of shuddering: *The dramatic announcement sent a shudder (of excitement) through the audience.*

shuf·fle[1] /ˈʃʌfəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to mix up (CARDS) so as to produce a chance order ready for a game to begin: *She shuffled the cards expertly.* **2** [T] to move or push about or to different positions: *He tried to look busy shuffling papers from one pile to another on his desk.* —see also RESHUFFLE **3** [I+*adv|prep*;T] to walk by dragging (one's feet) slowly along: *The old lady shuffled across the room.* | *He walked along shuffling his feet.* **4 shuffle off this mortal coil** *BrE euph, usu. humor* to die —**-fler** *n*

shuffle[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of shuffling cards: *Give the pack a good shuffle first.* | *It's your shuffle.* (=your turn to shuffle) **2** [S] a slow dragging walk

shuf·fle·board /ˈʃʌfəlbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* [U] a game, sometimes played on ships, in which round flat wooden pieces are pushed along a smooth surface to try to make them come to rest on numbered areas. It is popular with older people.

shuf·ti /ˈʃʊfti/ *n* [S (**at**)] *BrE old-fash sl* a quick view or look: *Come and have|take a shufti at this!*

shun /ʃʌn/ *v* **-nn-** [T] to avoid with determination; keep away from: *He was a shy man who shunned all publicity.* | *Since the scandal she's been shunned by her neighbours.*

'shun /ʃʌn/ *interj* ATTENTION[2]

shunt[1] /ʃʌnt/ *v* [T *often pass.*] **1** *BrE* ‖ **sidetrack** *AmE*— to move (a railway train or carriage) from one track to another, esp. to a SIDING **2** [+*obj*+*adv|prep*] *infml* to move to one side or away from a centre of activity: *Smith has been shunted (off) to one of the company's smaller offices.* —~**er** *n*

shunt[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** an act of shunting **2** a tube put in the body by a doctor to move blood or other liquid from one place to another **3** *BrE sl* a car crash; COLLISION

shush /ʃʊʃ/ *v infml* **1** [I *usu. imperative*] to become quiet:

Shush; somebody might hear us! **2** [T] to tell to be quiet, esp. by saying "sh": *She shushed him.* —compare HUSH[1]

shut /ʃʌt/ *v* **shut,** *present participle* **shutting** **1** [I;T] to go or put into a covered, blocked, or folded-together position; close: *The wood has swollen and the door won't shut.* | *Shut the gate so that the dog can't get out.* | *He shut his eyes and tried to sleep.* | *Keep the windows shut until the rain stops.* | *I shut the book and put it away.* | *You'd better* **keep your mouth shut** *and not tell anyone about this.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to hold or keep from leaving, entering, or moving, e.g. by closing a door or window: *He shut himself in his room to think.* | *Can't we do anything to shut that dreadful noise out?* | *She accidentally shut her skirt in the door and tore it.* | *to shut out unwelcome thoughts from one's mind* —see also SHUT-IN **3** [I;T] *esp. BrE*‖*usu.* **close** *AmE*— to (cause to) stop operating: *The shops shut at 5.30.* | *He lost his job when they shut the factory.* —compare SHUT **down,** SHUT **up** (3); see OPEN (USAGE)

shut sbdy. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] to put or keep in a place away from everyone else; ISOLATE: *She shut herself away in a cottage in the country for a year to write her novel.*

shut down *phr v* [I;T (=**shut** sthg. ↔ **down**)] to (cause to) stop operating, esp. for a long time or forever: *The whole company shuts down for three weeks' summer holiday.* | *The company has threatened to shut down the mine if the strike is not resolved.* —compare SHUT (3), SHUT **up** (3); see also SHUTDOWN

shut off *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**shut** sthg. ↔ **off**)] to stop the flow or operation (of), e.g. by turning a handle or pressing a button: *The machine shuts off automatically if a certain temperature is reached.* | *They shut off the gas and electricity before they went on holiday.* **2** [T (**from**) *often pass.*] (**shut** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **off**) to keep separate or away: *The valley is shut off by mountains from the rest of the world.* | *It's nice to be shut off from day-to-day problems while on holiday.*

shut out *phr v* [T] (**shut** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out**) *AmE* **1** to prevent from taking part; EXCLUDE **2** to beat (an opponent who makes no points): *The Chicago Bears shut out the Denver Broncos.* —see also SHUTOUT

shut up *phr v* **1** [I *usu. imperative*; T (=**shut** sbdy. **up**)] *infml, not polite* to (cause to) stop talking; be or make quiet: *Shut up! I'm trying to think.* | *Can't you shut that dog up?* | *He was going to tell the newspapers, so we offered him £1000 to shut him up.* **2** [T] (**shut** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**) to keep enclosed; CONFINE: *He shut himself up in his room and refused to come out.* **3** [I;T (=**shut** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to make (a place, esp. a shop at the end of a business day) safe before leaving by locking doors, etc.; close: *Business was slow so we shut up (the shop) early for the day.* —compare SHUT (3), SHUT **down;** see also SHOP[1]

shut·down /ˈʃʌtdaʊn/ *n* a stopping of work or operation because of a labour quarrel, holiday, repairs, lack of demand, damage, etc.: *The manager ordered a complete shutdown of the nuclear reactor, as there was a danger of an explosion.* —see also SHUT **down**

Shute /ʃuːt/, **Nev·il** /ˈnevəl/ (1899–1960) an English writer, whose many popular adventure NOVELS include *A Town Like Alice* and *On the Beach*

shut-eye /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *infml* sleep: *It's time to get a bit of shut-eye.*

shut-in /ˈ· ·/ *n, adj AmE* (of or being) a person who cannot or does not wish to come out of their house: *medical care for shut-ins*

shut·out /ˈʃʌtaʊt/ *n AmE* a game in which only one side makes points

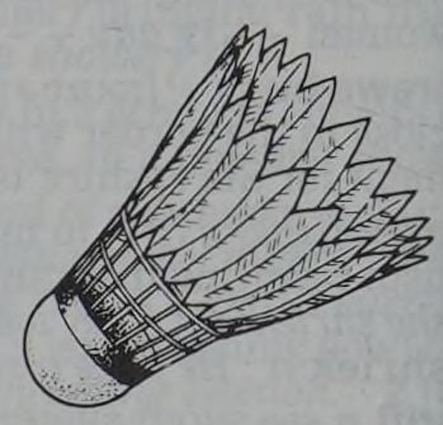
shut·ter[1] /ˈʃʌtəʳ/ *n* **1** a part of a camera which opens for an exact usu. very short time to let light fall on the film: *Press the shutter.* | *a shutter speed of 1/250 second* —see picture at CAMERA **2** either of a pair of wood or metal covers that can be unfolded in front of the outside of a window to block the view or keep out the light **3 put up the shutters** *infml* to close a business at the end of the day or for ever

shutter[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to close (as if) with SHUTTERS (2): *The deserted town was a sad sight, with all the shops shuttered and the people gone.*

shut·tle[1] /ˈʃʌtl/ *n* **1** (a vehicle used for) a regular journey from one place to another and back by air, railway, bus, etc., usu. over a short distance: *the London to Paris air shuttle* **2** a spacecraft that can be used more than once **3** a pointed instrument used in weaving to pass the thread across and between the threads that form the length of the cloth **4** *infml* a shuttlecock

shuttle[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to move by a SHUTTLE[1] (1): *We shuttled the passengers to the city centre by helicopter.*

shut·tle·cock /ˈʃʌtlkɒk‖-kɑːk/ *esp. BrE* ‖ *usu.* **birdie** *AmE*— *n* a small light feathered object with a round base, for hitting across the net in the game of BADMINTON


shuttlecock

shuttle di·plo·ma·cy /ˈ·· ·ˌ···/ *n* [U] international talks, e.g. to try to make peace, carried out by someone who travels between the countries concerned taking messages and suggesting answers to problems

shuttle ser·vice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a frequent air, bus, or train service between two places fairly near to each other: *There's a shuttle service between the town centre and the station.*

shy[1] /ʃaɪ/ *adj* **1** [(**of**)] nervous in the company of others; lacking self-confidence: *When the children met the queen, they were too shy to speak.* | *He's shy of women.* | *a shy smile* **2** (of an animal) unwilling to come near people; TIMID **3** [(**of**)] *esp. AmE* lacking; short: [after *n*] *We're still three votes shy (of the number we need to win).* **4 Once bitten, twice shy** *saying* A person who has had a bad experience will be more careful in the future **5 -shy** afraid of; not liking: *She's camera-shy and hates being photographed.* —see also GUNSHY, WORKSHY, **fight shy of** (FIGHT[1]) —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

shy[2] *v* [I (**at**)] (esp. of a horse) to make a sudden sideways or backward movement, esp. from fear: *The horse shied at the loud noise and threw its rider.*

shy away from sthg. *phr v* [T+*obj*/*v-ing*] to avoid because of fear, dislike, or lack of self-confidence: *She tends to shy away from (accepting) responsibility.*

shy[3] *v* [T] *old-fash infml* to throw with a quick movement

shy[4] *n BrE infml* **1** a throw **2** [(**at**)] an attack in words: *He took a few good-natured shies at his opponents.* —see also COCONUT SHY

Shy·lock /ˈʃaɪlɒk‖-lɑːk/ *n* **1** a HEARTLESS Jewish MONEYLENDER in Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice.* Shylock lends a sum of money to another character, Antonio, but when Antonio is unable to pay the money back, Shylock claims to have the right to cut a pound of flesh from Antonio's body. —see also MERCHANT OF VENICE, **one's pound of flesh** (POUND) **2** someone who is very mean and demands too high a price for something: *How much do you want, you little Shylock?*

shys·ter /ˈʃaɪstəʳ/ *n AmE infml* a dishonest person, esp. a lawyer or politician

si /siː/ *n* [C;U] TI

Si·ad Barre /ˌsiːæd ˈbɑːʳ/, **Mo·ham·ed** /məʊˈhæmɨd/ (1921–) an army general who took power and became president of Somalia in 1969. He was forced to leave his country in 1991 after a CIVIL WAR had begun.

Si·am /ˌsaɪˈæm/ the name of Thailand until 1939

Si·a·mese cat /ˌsaɪəmiːz ˈkæt/ *n* a type of blue-eyed shorthaired cat with pale grey or light brown fur and darker ears, feet, tail, and face

Siamese twin /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* either of a pair of people joined together from birth at some part of their bodies

SIB /ˌes aɪ ˈbiː/ *abbrev. for:* SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS BOARD

Si·be·li·us /sɨˈbeɪliəs/, **Jean** /ʒæn/ (1865–1957) a Finnish COMPOSER of highly personal music which is also thought to express Finnish CULTURE

Si·be·r·ia /saɪˈbɪəriə/ a very large area in the former Soviet Union, rich in minerals but low in population. It is known for being extremely cold, and for being the place where Soviet governments used to send anyone who disagreed with them to prison. —**-rian** *adj*

sib·i·lant[1] /ˈsɪbɨlənt/ *adj fml* making or being a sound like that of *s* or *sh: a sibilant whistling sound*

sibilant[2] *n tech* a sibilant sound, such as /s, z, ʃ, ʒ/ in English

sib·ling /ˈsɪblɪŋ/ also **sib** /sɪb/ *infml*— *n fml* a brother or sister: *sibling rivalry*

sib·yl /ˈsɪbɪl, -bəl/ *n* any of several women in the ancient world who were thought to know the future

sic[1] /sɪk/ *adv Lat* (used after a word in writing to show that it has been printed or quoted (QUOTE[1]) intentionally, even though it is a mistake): *The foreign student wrote about "many informations" (sic) in his English essay.*

sic[2] also **sick** *v* **sicced, siccing** [T] *AmE* **1** (of dogs or animals) to cause to attack; set on: *He sicced his dog on me.* **2 Sic 'em!** (said to a dog) Attack them!

Si·ci·ly /ˈsɪsl̩i/ an island in the Mediterranean sea which is part of Italy; capital Palermo. Sicily is often spoken of in connection with the Mafia. —**-lian** /sl̩ˈsɪliən/ *n, adj*

sick[1] /sɪk/ *adj* **1** not well; ill; having a disease: *The President is a very sick man.* | *She's visiting her sick uncle in hospital.* | *The cow looks pretty sick; you should call in the vet.* | *Jim's not at work – he's* **off sick** *today.* | *Many of the soldiers* **reported sick** *with food poisoning.* | *Did Mary* **call in sick** *today? I haven't seen her.* —see ILL (USAGE) **2** [F] *BrE* ‖ **sick to one's stomach** *AmE*— upset in the stomach so that one wants to throw up what is in it; feeling NAUSEA; QUEASY: *We began to feel sick as soon as the ship started to move.* —see also **be sick** **3** [A] causing or typical of this feeling: *a sick smell|feeling* **4** [F] so influenced by unpleasant feelings that one (almost) feels ill: *He was sick with fear.* | *Why didn't you say you were going to be late? I've been* **worried sick.** (=extremely worried) | (*lit*) *feeling sick at heart* (=very unhappy) **5** [F+**of**] also **sick and tired** *infml*— feeling annoyance, dislike, and impatience from too much of something: *I'm sick of (listening to) your complaints; be quiet!* **6** unnaturally or unhealthily cruel; MORBID: *a sick joke|mind* **7 be sick** *esp. BrE* to throw up what is in the stomach; VOMIT: *He suddenly felt sick, and was sick twice before he could even get to the bathroom.* | *The cat's been sick on the carpet.* **8 look sick** *infml, esp. AmE* to look worthless by comparison: *She's such a good swimmer she makes me look sick.* **9 make someone sick** *infml* to be strongly displeasing to someone: *It makes me sick, the way they exploit their workers!* **10 on the 'sick list** *infml* (absent because of being) ill **11 sick as a parrot** *BrE* extremely disappointed; a phrase often thought of in connection with football players describing how they feel when they have lost a match **12 take sick** *old-fash* to become ill: *He took sick and died a week later.* —see also AIRSICK, CARSICK, HOMESICK, SEASICK, TRAVELSICK

▷ USAGE 1 In British English to *be|feel* **sick** is to VOMIT or feel that one is going to VOMIT. It is therefore confusing to say *I was* **sick** *yesterday* meaning "I was **ill**", but it is all right to use **sick** in this meaning before a noun: *a* **sick** *child*. 2 A **sick** person has a disease, not for example a wound or a broken leg, although one may be on **sick leave** or receive **sick pay** for these reasons. —see also ILL (USAGE)◁

sick[2] *n* **1** [*the*+P] people who are ill: *The sick and wounded were allowed to go free.* **12** [U] *BrE infml for* VOMIT[2]

sick[3] *v AmE* SIC[2]

sick sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *BrE infml for* VOMIT[1]

sick·bay /ˈsɪkbeɪ/ *n* a room on a ship, in a school, etc., with beds for people who are ill

sick·bed /ˈsɪkbed/ *n esp. lit* the bed where a person lies ill: *We visited him in his sickbed.*

sick build·ing syn·drome /ˌ· ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a pattern of illness typically suffered by workers in buildings which have AIR CONDITIONING but whose windows do not open: *The doctor said his flu was the result of sick building syndrome.*

sick call /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE for* SICK PARADE

sick·en /ˈsɪkən/ *v* **1** [T] to cause to feel strong (almost) sick feelings of dislike or anger; NAUSEATE: *Their hypocrisy sickens me.* **2** [I] to become ill; show signs of a disease: *The animal began to sicken and soon died.* | (*BrE*) *She's got a temperature; maybe she's* **sickening for something.** (=is about to become ill)

sicken of sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *esp. lit* to lose one's desire for or interest in: *At last he sickened of endlessly drinking and gambling.*

sick·en·ing /ˈsɪkənɪŋ, ˈsɪknɪŋ/ *adj* extremely displeasing or unpleasant; disgusting (DISGUST): *It's sickening to see such cruelty.* | *He fell and hit his head on the floor with a sickening thud.* —~**ly** *adv*

sick head·ache /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n infml* a bad headache, esp. a MIGRAINE or a headache with SICKNESS (2)

sick·le /ˈsɪkəl/ *n* a tool with a hook-shaped blade, held in the hand, used for cutting grain or long grass —compare SCYTHE[1]

sick leave /ˈ· ·/ *n* [(**on**) U] time spent away from a job during illness

sickle-cell a·nae·mi·a /ˌ·· · ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] a HEREDITARY condition, found esp. in black people, in which the red blood cells have a curved shape, causing general weakness and illness

sick·ly /ˈsɪkli/ *adj* **1** often ill; weak and unhealthy: *a sickly child* | *a sickly-looking plant* **2** unpleasantly weak, pale, or silly: *His face was a sickly yellow.* | *a sickly smile* **3** causing a sick feeling: *a sickly smell*

sick·ness /ˈsɪkn̩s/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) condition of being ill; illness or disease: *There have been a lot of people off work this week owing to sickness.* | (fig.) *the nation's economic sickness* **2** [U] the condition of feeling sick; NAUSEA: *A wave of sickness came over me.* **3 in sickness and in health** a phrase from the Christian marriage service related to promises by the man and woman to love and care for each other in both good and bad health —see also MARRIAGE —see also MORNING SICKNESS, MOTION SICKNESS, SLEEPING SICKNESS

sickness ben·e·fit /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [U] *BrE* money paid, esp. by the government, to someone who is too ill to work — compare UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

sick note /ˈ· ·/ *n* a note written by someone's doctor, mother, etc., to explain officially that someone is ill

sick·o /ˈsɪkəʊ/ *n AmE infml* a person who is mentally either ill or not like people usu. are

sick-out /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a STRIKE[2] in which all the workers at a company say that they are ill at the same time

sick pa·rade /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **sick call** *AmE*— *n* [(**on**) U] the daily time or place for soldiers to report themselves as ill

sick pay /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] money paid by an employer to a worker for time spent away from a job during illness

sick·room /ˈsɪk-rʊm, -ruːm/ *n* a room where someone lies ill in bed

sic tran·sit glo·ri·a mun·di /ˌsɪk ˌtrænzɪt ˌglɔːriə ˈmʊndi/ *phrase Lat* so passes the glory of the world; used esp. when speaking of the short time for which things, esp. power and fame, last on Earth

side[1] /saɪd/ *n* **1** [C] (*sometimes in comb.*) a surface of something that is not its top, bottom, front, or back: *The front door is locked; we'll have to go round to the side (of the building).* | *They threw the box over the side of the ship into the sea.* | *The sides of the bowl were beautifully painted.* | *The display case had glass sides.* | *The house was halfway up the side of the hill|up the hillside.* **2** [C] any of the flat surfaces of something: *A cube has six sides.* | *Which side of the box do you put the label on?* **3** [C] (*often in comb.*) an edge or border: *A square has four equal sides.* | *I sat at the side of the road|at the roadside.* | *a ringside seat* (=at the edge of the RING[1] (5)) *for the boxing match* —see also SEASIDE **4** [C] either of the two surfaces of a thin flat object: *Write on only one side of the paper.* | *This coin has the queen's head on one side and a lion on the other.* | *Fold the cloth with the right sides facing.* —see also FLIP SIDE **5** [C] a part, place, or division according to a real or imaginary centre or central line: *I live on the other side of town.* | *He had a scar on the right side of his face.* | *Cars drive on the left side of the road in Britain.* | *I saw her on the far side of the room.* | *The enemy were attacking* **on every side|on all sides.** **6** [C *usu. sing.*] the place or area directly next to someone or something: *On one side of the window was a mirror, and on the other a painting.* | *On either side of the front gates stood a tall tree.* | *His daughter walked at|by his side.* (=beside him) | *During her illness he never left her side.* (=was always with her) **7** [C] the part of the body from the shoulder to the top of the leg: *a pain in my side|my left side* **8** [C] a part or quality to be considered, usu. in opposition to another; ASPECT: *Try to look at all sides|both sides of the question before deciding.* | *His kindness was a side of his character that few people knew about.* | *Try to stress the positive side of the government's record.* | *We've kept our side of the agreement, so now it's up to you to keep your side.* **9** [C] (a group which holds) a position in a quarrel, war, etc.: *In most wars, neither side wins.* | *Whose side*

are you on (=who do you support) – *mine or hers?* | *I never* **take sides.** (=support one side against the other) **10** [C+*sing./pl. v*] *esp. BrE* a sports team: *Our side is/are winning.* **11** [C] the family line of the stated parent: *He's Scottish on his mother's side.* **12** [S] *BrE infml* a television station; CHANNEL: *This programme's pretty boring; what's on the other side?* **13** [C] a page of writing; one side of a sheet of paper: *How many sides have we got to write for this essay?* **14** [C+**of**] either half of an animal's body cut along the BACKBONE, when considered as food: *a side of beef/bacon* **15** [U] *BrE* the spinning of a SNOOKER ball caused by hitting it on the side rather than in the middle **16 get on the right/wrong side of someone** *infml* to win/lose someone's favour **17 let one's/the side down** *esp. BrE infml* to behave in a way that causes trouble, shame, or failure for one's family, team, etc. **18 on one's side** giving one an advantage and increasing one's chances of success: *The champion is a more experienced fighter, but the challenger has got youth on his side.* (=has the advantage of being younger) **19 on the side: a** as or from a sometimes dishonest additional activity: *He's a teacher, but he makes a little money on the side by repairing cars in his free time.* –see also SIDELINE[1] **b** *AmE* (of food) in addition, but not on/in the same dish: *waffles with sausage on the side* **20 on the ... side** *infml* rather; too: *I like the house but I think the price is a bit on the high side* (=rather high). **21 on the right/wrong side of** younger/older than (a stated age): *She's still on the right side of 40.* **22 on the right/wrong side of the law** not breaking/breaking the law **23 on/to one side: a** out of consideration for the present; for possible use later: *Let's leave that question on one side.* | *I try to put a few pounds to one side each week.* **b** away from other people for a private talk: *I can't let her go on like this; I must take her to one side and give her some advice.* **24 side by side** next to (one) another: *The two bottles stood side by side on the table.* **25 this side of** *infml* without going as far as: *At that restaurant you get the best Chinese food this side of Peking.* **26 -sided** /saɪdɨd/having the stated number or kind of sides: *a three-sided field* | *a steep-sided mountain* –see also ALONGSIDE, ASIDE, BACKSIDE, INSIDE, ONE-SIDED, OUTSIDE, **look on the bright side** (LOOK[1]), **on the safe side** (SAFE[1]), **split one's sides** (SPLIT[1])

side[2] *adj* [A] at, from, towards, etc., the side: *a side door* | *a side view of an object*

side[3] *v* [I+**with/against**] to support one person or group in a quarrel, fight, etc., against another: *Frank sided with David in the argument.*

side·arm /ˈsaɪd-ɑːm‖-ɑːrm/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a weapon carried or worn at one's side, such as a sword or PISTOL

side·board /ˈsaɪdbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* a piece of DINING ROOM furniture like a long table with a cupboard below to hold dishes, glasses, etc.

side·burns /ˈsaɪdbɜːnz‖-bɜːrnz/ also **side·boards** /ˈsaɪdbɔːdz ‖ -bɔːrdz/ *BrE*– *n* [P] hair grown down the sides of a man's face in front of the ears

side·car /ˈsaɪdkɑːr/ *n* a usu. one-wheeled enclosed seat fastened to the side of a motorcycle to hold a passenger

side dish /ˈ· ·/ *n* a dish one eats with and in addition to a main dish: *a side dish of salad*

side ef·fect /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* an effect, often one that is unexpected or unwanted, happening in addition to the one that is intended: *The new drug was withdrawn when it was found to have harmful side effects.* | *The tourist industry is worried about the possible side effects of these strict immigration controls.*

side is·sue /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a question or subject apart from the main one; something of not much importance which may take one's attention away from the main matter: *We mustn't let the meeting get bogged down in side issues.*

side·kick /ˈsaɪdˌkɪk/ *n infml, humor, esp. AmE* a (less important) helper or companion

side·light /ˈsaɪdlaɪt/ *n* [*often pl.*] **1** [C] *BrE* ‖ **parking light** *AmE*– either of a pair of lamps fixed usu. on the front of a vehicle at or near the sides –compare HEADLIGHT, and see picture at CAR **2** [(**on**)] a piece of additional perhaps not very important information: *The study of uniforms can give some interesting sidelights on military history.*

side·line[1] /ˈsaɪdlaɪn/ *n* **1** an activity in addition to one's regular job or business: *Jane's a doctor, but she does a bit of writing as a sideline.* | *We're a computer company but we have a profitable sideline producing calculators.* –see also **on the side** (SIDE[1] (19)) **2** a line marking the limit of play at the side of a football field, tennis court, etc. –see picture at TENNIS **3** also **sidelines** *pl.*– the area just outside this line and out of the area of play: *The coach stood on the sideline(s) shouting to his players.* | (fig.) *Her injury put her* **on the sidelines** (=prevented her from taking part) *for the rest of the season.*

sideline[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *AmE* to put (a person, esp. a player) out of action from the main activity

side·long /ˈsaɪdlɒŋ‖-lɔːŋ/ *adj* [A] directed sideways: *He threw a* **sidelong glance** *in her direction.*

side-on /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj, adv* from one side rather than from in front: *a side-on crash*

side or·der /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a restaurant order for a separate dish to be eaten together with the main dish: *I'll have the chef's special with a side order of french fries.* –see also **on the side** (SIDE[1])

si·der·e·al /saɪˈdɪəriəl/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or calculated by the stars. Sidereal measurements of time are based on the **sidereal day**, equal to 23 hours 56 minutes 4·09 seconds.

side·sad·dle[1] /ˈsaɪdˌsædl/ *adv* on a sidesaddle: *She rode sidesaddle.*

sidesaddle[2] *n* a woman's SADDLE (=seat for putting on a horse) on which both legs are placed on the same side of the horse's back

side·show /ˈsaɪdʃəʊ/ *n* **1** a separate small show at a fair or CIRCUS, usu. offering a game or amusement in addition to the main entertainment **2** a less interesting or less serious activity compared with a more serious main one: *This brief conflict was a mere sideshow compared with the world war that followed.*

side·slip /ˈsaɪdˌslɪp/ *v* **-pp-** [I] to slip, slide, or SKID[2] sideways, esp. in a car or on SKIS –**sideslip** *n*

side·split·ting /ˈsaɪdˌsplɪtɪŋ/ *adj* causing uncontrollable laughter; extremely funny: *a sidesplitting joke*

side·step /ˈsaɪdstep/ *v* **-pp-** [I;T] **1** to take a step to the side to avoid (something, esp. a blow): *The champion sidestepped the challenger's punch.* **2** to avoid (an unwelcome question, problem, etc., esp. dishonestly; EVADE): *Politicians are good at neatly sidestepping reporters' questions.* –**sidestep** *n*

side street /ˈ· ·/ *n* a narrow less important street, esp. one that meets a main street –compare BACK STREET

side·stroke /ˈsaɪdstrəʊk/ *n* [S;U] a way of swimming by lying on one side moving the arms one by one and kicking the legs like scissors: *to do a fast sidestroke*

side·swipe[1] /ˈsaɪdswaɪp/ *n* [(**at**)] *infml* an attacking remark made in the course of making other statements about something completely different: *In her article on the state of the theatre she took a few sideswipes at the government's policy towards the arts.*

sideswipe[2] *v* [T] *AmE* to strike with a blow directed along the side: *to sideswipe a parked car*

side·track[1] /ˈsaɪdtræk/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] **1** to cause to leave one subject or activity and follow another usu. less important one; DIVERT: *I was looking up Russian history in the encyclopedia when I got sidetracked by a fascinating article on chess.* | *We were supposed to be discussing the building plans but we got sidetracked into talking about politics.* | *Some corrupt officials tried to sidetrack our investigation.* **2** *AmE for* SHUNT[1] (1)

sidetrack[2] *n* an unimportant line of thinking followed instead of keeping on a more important one

side·walk /ˈsaɪdwɔːk/ *esp. AmE* ‖ usu. **pavement** *BrE*– *n* a hard surface or path at the side of a street for people to walk on: *He stepped off the sidewalk* | *a sidewalk café* –see picture at HOUSE

sidewalk art·ist /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* PAVEMENT ARTIST

sidewalk caf·e /ˈ·· ˌ··‖ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *AmE for* PAVEMENT CAFE

side·ways /ˈsaɪdweɪz/ *adj, adv* **1** [(ON)] with one side (and not the front or back) forward or up: *He was so fat that he could only get through the door sideways (on).* **2** to or towards one side: *She stepped sideways/took a sideways step.*

side-wheel·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* PADDLE STEAMER

side·wind·er /ˈsaɪdwaɪndəʳ/ *n* **1** a N American snake **2** a MISSILE that is fired in the air towards something that

is also in the air, which it finds because of its heat

sid·ing /ˈsaɪdɪŋ/ *n* a short railway track connected to a main track, used for loading and unloading, for carriages not in use, etc.

si·dle /ˈsaɪdl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*, esp. UP, **to**] to move uncertainly or secretively, as if ready to turn and go the other way: *He sidled up to the stranger in the street and tried to sell him the stolen ring.* | *She sidled out of the crowded room.*

SIDS /ˌes aɪ diː ˈes/ *n* Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; a formal name for COT DEATH

siege /siːdʒ/ *n* **1** [C;U] an operation by an army surrounding a defended place and repeatedly attacking it, blocking its supplies, etc., in order to force the defenders to accept defeat: *a state of siege* | *the siege of Troy* | *The Greeks* **laid siege to** (=started a siege of) *Troy.* | *After many weeks the* **siege** *was* **raised.** (=came to an end) | (fig.) *Newspapermen laid siege to the flat where the murdered girl's mother was staying.* —see also BESIEGE **2** [C] a situation in which an armed criminal keeps people as prisoners in a building: *After an 18-hour siege, the police stormed the house and captured the gunman.*

Sieg·fried Line /ˈsiːgfriːd ˌlaɪn/ **1** the name given by the Germans to the line of defence that their armies were spread along in September 1918 **2** a name given by the British to an area of the Western Front in the Second World War. There is a famous song that was sung by British soldiers in this war which begins "We're going to hang out our washing on the Siegfried Line..."

si·en·na /siˈenə/ *n* [U] earthy material which is brownish yellow (in the form of **raw sienna**), and reddish brown when burned (**burnt sienna**), used as colouring matter for paint

si·er·ra /siˈerə/ *n* [*often pl.*] a row, range, or area of sharply-pointed mountains: *hiking in the high sierras*

Si·er·ra Club /ˌ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ an American group that is concerned about the environment and which tries to influence Congress about environmental subjects. It is also a social club for people who like to walk in the mountains.

Sierra Le·one /siˌerə liˈəʊn/ a country in W Africa; capital Freetown; population 4,047,000 (1989) — **~an** /-liˈəʊniən/ *n, adj*

Sierra Ma·dre /siˌerə ˈmɑːdreɪ/ a system of mountain ranges in Mexico

Sierra Ne·va·da /ˌ·ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ **1** also **Sierras**— a mountain range in California in the US —see colour map on pages 1374/5 **2** a mountain range in S Spain

si·es·ta /siˈestə/ *n* a short sleep after the midday meal, as is the custom in many warm countries: *I think I'll have/take a short siesta.* —compare NAP¹

sieve¹ /sɪv/ *n* a tool or container, made of a wire or plastic net on a frame, or of a solid sheet with holes, used for separating large and small solid bits, or solid things from liquid: *Put the soup through a sieve.* | (*infml*) *I'm afraid I've got* **a memory/mind like a sieve.** (=I easily forget things.)

sieve² *v* [T] **1** to put through a sieve: *Sieve the sauce to get the lumps out.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv/prep*, esp. OUT] to separate with a sieve: *You'll need to sieve out the stones from the soil.*

sift /sɪft/ *v* **1** [T] to put (something non-liquid) through a sieve, sifter, or net: *Sift the flour first.* **2** [I (**through**);T] to make a close and thorough examination of (things in a mass or group): *She sifted through her papers to find the lost letter.* | *We must sift the evidence very carefully before we come to any conclusions.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*, esp. OUT, **from**] to separate, esp. by carefully examining: *It's hard to sift (out) the truth from the lies in this case.*

sift·er /ˈsɪftəʳ/ *n* (*often in comb.*) a container with many small holes in the top, for scattering or cleaning powdery foods: *a flour sifter* —compare SHAKER

sigh¹ /saɪ/ *v* [I] **1** to let out a deep breath slowly and with a sound, usu. expressing sadness, tiredness, or satisfaction: *She sighed with relief/with despair.* | *He thought of all the opportunities he had missed, and sighed.* **2** (esp. of the wind) to make a sound like this **3** [(**for**)] *lit* to feel a mixture of sadness and fond desire, esp. about something past, far away, etc.; grieve: *sighing for her lost youth*

sigh² *n* an act or sound of sighing: *We all* **heaved/let out** (=made) **a sigh of relief** *when we heard that they were safe.*

sight¹ /saɪt/ *n* **1** [U] the power of seeing; EYESIGHT; VISION: *He lost his sight* (=was blinded) *in an accident.* | *He's got good sight for a man of his age.* | *Her sight is failing.* — see also SECOND SIGHT **2** [S;U(**of**)] the seeing of something: *The crowd waited for a sight of the Queen passing by.* | *The house is hidden from sight behind trees.* (=you cannot see it) | *I always faint* **at the sight of** (=when I see) *blood.* | *I* **caught sight of** (=saw for a moment) *my old friend in town today.* | *I saw her for a moment but then* **lost sight of** *her* (=could no longer see her) *in the crowd.* | (fig.) *I* **can't bear/stand the sight of** *her.* (=I dislike her very much) | **At first sight** (=when seen or considered for the first time) *it looked like a simple accident, but later the police became suspicious.* **3** [C] something that is seen: *What a beautiful sight those roses make!* | *the familiar sight of the postman going along the street* **4** [U] presence in one's view; the range of what can be seen: *She's too careful with her children — she never lets them out of her sight.* | *The boat was* **within sight of** *land.* | *The train came round the bend* **into sight.** | *Keep* **out of sight!** (=make sure no one sees you) | (fig.) *Peace is now* **in sight.** (=likely to come soon) | (fig.) *The strike has now lasted six months, and there is still no end in sight.* —see also LINE OF SIGHT **5** [C *usu. pl.*] something worth seeing, esp. a place visited by tourists: *to see the sights of London* —see also SIGHTSEEING **6** [C *often pl.*] a part of an instrument or weapon which guides the eye in aiming: *To aim, line up the front and rear sights on the gun.* | *I had the deer* **in my sights,** *but it moved before I could fire.* — see picture at GUN **7** [S] *infml* something which looks very bad or makes people laugh: *What a sight you are, with paint all over your clothes!* | *This room looks a sight. It's the untidiest place I've ever seen!* **8** [S] *infml* a lot; a great deal: *This car is costing me a darn sight more to run than I expected.* | *It's a jolly sight wetter this summer than last.* **9 at/on sight** as soon as seen or shown, without delay: *The guard had orders to* **shoot on sight.** (=without finding out who was there) **10 by sight** by recognition, not by personal knowledge of someone: *I only know her by sight.* **11 in the sight of** *lit* in the judgment or opinion of: *We are all equal in the sight of God.* **12 out of sight** *esp. AmE* extremely good: *That curry you made was really out of sight.* **13 out of sight, out of mind** something that is not seen is soon forgotten: *If you don't want Billy to break that toy, put it away; out of sight, out of mind.* **14 set one's sights (on)** aim (at); direct one's efforts (towards): *"She's set her sights on becoming a secretary." "I would have thought she could have set her sights a bit higher than that."* **15 sight for sore eyes** *infml* a person or thing that one is glad to see at last; a welcome sight **16 sight unseen** without a chance of seeing or examining: *I bought the antique books sight unseen.* —see also **lose sight of** (LOSE)

sight² *v* [T] to get a view of, esp. after a time of looking; see for the first time: *The sailors gave a shout when they sighted land.* | *Several rare birds have been sighted in this area.*

sight·ed /ˈsaɪtɪd/ *adj* (of a person) able to see; not blind — see also CLEAR-SIGHTED, FARSIGHTED, LONGSIGHTED, SHORTSIGHTED

sight·ing /ˈsaɪtɪŋ/ *n* a case of someone or something being sighted: *There have been several sightings of these rare birds/of the escaped murderer in this area.*

sight·less /ˈsaɪtləs/ *adj lit or tech* unable to see; blind

sight-read /ˈsaɪt riːd/ *v* **sight-read** /ˈsaɪt red/ [I;T] to play or sing (written music) when one looks at it for the first time, without practice — **~er** /ˈsaɪt ˌriːdəʳ/ *n* — **~ing** *n* [U]

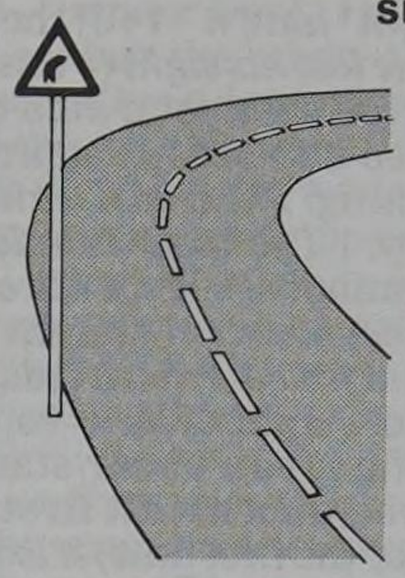
sight screen /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in cricket) a large, usu. white, movable SCREEN placed at the edge of a cricket field behind the BOWLER and used to help the BATSMAN see the ball more clearly

sight·see·ing /ˈsaɪtˌsiːɪŋ/ *n* [U] the visiting of famous or interesting places, esp. by tourists: *Some people like to lie on the beach, but I prefer (to go) sightseeing.* | *a sightseeing holiday* —see also SIGHT¹ (5)

sight·se·er /ˈsaɪtˌsiːəʳ/ *n* a person who goes sightseeing

sign¹ /saɪn/ *n* **1** [C(**of**)] a standard mark; something which is seen and represents a generally-known meaning; SYMBOL: *Crowns, stars, and stripes are signs of military rank.* | *The number −5 begins with the sign −, the* **minus sign.** | *Written music uses lots of signs, like* mf , mt , *and* ms . **2** [C] a movement of the body intended to express

a particular meaning or command; signal: *Don't ring the bell yet; wait until I give the sign.* [+*to-v*/*that*] *She put her finger to her lips as a sign to be quiet*/*a sign that we should be quiet.* **3** [C] a notice giving information, warning, directions, etc.: *Pay attention to the traffic*/*road signs.*| *Can't you read that sign? It says "No Smoking".* **4** [(**of**)] something that shows or points to the presence or likely future existence of a particular condition, fact or quality: *Swollen ankles can be a sign of heart disease.* | *The new tough laws are being interpreted as a sign of the government's determination to tackle this problem.* | *The economy is* **showing signs of** *improvement*/**showing every sign of** *improvement.* | [+(*that*)] *There are signs that the economy is improving.* | *Her irritable behaviour is* **a sure sign** *that she's worried about something.* | *I looked all over the place, but there was* **no sign of** (=I could not see) *him anywhere.* | *I could see* **no sign of life** *in the deserted town.* | **Signs are** (=we expect) *that he'll be back this evening.* **5** [C] a STAR SIGN any of the 12 divisions of the year represented by groups of stars: *Which sign (of the zodiac) were you born under?* –see ZODIAC (USAGE), and see picture at ZODIAC **6** [C] *esp. bibl* a wonderful act of God; MIRACLE **7** [U] *AmE infml* for SIGN LANGUAGE: *Do you know sign?* **8 a sign of the times** *usu. derog* something that is typical of the (bad) way things are just now: *Beer at £2 a pint! Ah well, I suppose it's a sign of the times.* **9 the sign of the cross** a hand movement down and across the chest in the shape of the CROSS[1] (3), done e.g. as a sign of respect in front of the ALTAR, or to guard oneself against evil (CROSS[1])



sign

sign[2] *v* [I;T] **1** to write (one's name) on (a written paper), esp. for official purposes, to show one's agreement, show that one is the writer, etc.: *Sign here, please.* | *The documents are ready to be signed.* | *He signed (his name on) the cheque.* | *Britain has just signed a new trade agreement with Japan.* (=has reached an agreement and made it formally complete by signing a paper) **2** *esp. BrE* to start to employ or be employed, esp. in football, by signing a contract: *The local football team has signed a new goalkeeper; he has* **signed for**/**with** *the local team.* | *The record companies are looking for new groups to sign.* **3** *esp. AmE* to use SIGN LANGUAGE: *Is the governor's speech going to be signed?* | *I can't sign fast enough to keep up with him.* **4 sign on the dotted line** *infml* to agree to something quickly and unconditionally –~**er** *n*

sign sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] to give up (ownership, a claim, a right, etc.) formally, esp. by signing a paper: *She signed away her share in the property.*

sign for sthg. *phr v* [T] to sign one's name to show that one has received (something): *Certain kinds of mail have to be signed for when they are delivered.*

sign in *phr v* [I] to record one's name when arriving: *Visitors to the club should sign in at the entrance.* –opposite **sign out**

sign off *phr v* [I] **1** (of a radio or television station) to stop broadcasting, esp. at the end of the day **2** to end an informal letter, esp. with a signature: *"I'd better sign off now. Love, John."*

sign on *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**sign** sbdy. ↔ **on**)] to (cause to) join a working force, by signing a paper: *He signed on as a sailor.* **2** [I] *BrE* to give notice officially to the government that one has become unemployed, or that one is still unemployed, so that one is allowed to receive BENEFIT: *She's been signing on for the last six months.*

sign out *phr v* [I] **1** to record one's name when leaving –opposite **sign in** **2** [T] (**sign** sthg. ↔ **out**) to record the removal or borrowing of: *to sign out a book from the library*

sign sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T (**to**)] to give (one's rights, ownership, etc.) formally to someone else esp. by signing a paper: *Grandmother has signed the farm over to my brother.*

sign to sbdy. *phr v* [T] to make a movement as a sign to: [+*obj*+*to-v*] *I signed to the waiter to bring us the bill.*

sign up *phr v* [I;T (=**sign** sbdy. ↔ **up**) (**for**)] to (cause to) sign an agreement to take part in something, or to take a job; ENLIST: *There was an attempt to sign up more men for the police force, but not many signed up.* [+*to-v*] *I've signed up to take a course at the local college.*

sig·nal[1] /ˈsɪgnəl/ *n* **1** something intended to warn, command, or give a message, such as a special sound or action: *A red lamp is often used as a danger signal.* | *She made a signal with her arm for a left turn.* | (fig.) *This opinion poll is a clear signal to the President that the voters do not support his foreign policy.* –see also SMOKE SIGNAL **2** [(**for**)] an action which causes something else to happen: *Don't start yet – wait for the signal.* [+*to-v*] *When I look at my watch, it's a signal (for us) to leave.* **3** a railway apparatus next to the track, usu. of green, yellow, and red lights, to tell train drivers whether they can go ahead or must stop: *The train must stop when the signal's (on) red.* **4** a sound, image, or message sent by waves, as in radio or television: *We live too far from the city to get a strong television signal.* | *The navy has picked up a radar signal from the missing boat.*

signal[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* **1** [I (**to, for**)] to give a signal: *She was signalling wildly, waving her arms.* | *The general signalled to his officers for the attack to begin.* **2** [T] to express, warn, or tell (as if) by a signal or signals: *Both sides have signalled their willingness to start negotiations.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The policeman signalled the traffic to move forward slowly.* [+(*obj*+) *that*] *The thief signalled (his friend) that the police were coming.* **3** [T] to be a clear sign or proof of; MARK: *The defeat of 1066 signalled the end of Saxon rule in England.*

signal[3] *adj* [A] *fml* very noticeable; not ordinary; CONSPICUOUS: *a signal achievement* | *the minister's signal failure to deal with this matter.* –~**ly** *adv* : *The minister has signally failed to deal with this matter.*

signal box /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **signal tow·er** /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *AmE*– *n* a small raised building near a railway from which the signals and POINTS (1) are controlled

sig·nal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsɪgnəlaɪz/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *fml* to make noticeable or different; DISTINGUISH: *Her work is signalized by great attention to detail.*

sig·nal·man /ˈsɪgnəlmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** *esp. BrE* someone who controls railway traffic and signals **2** also **sig·nal·ler** /ˈsɪgnələʳ/– a member of the army or navy trained in signalling

sig·na·to·ry /ˈsɪgnətəri‖-tɔːri/ *n* [(**to, of**)] any of the signers of an agreement, esp. among nations: *Most western nations are signatories to*/*of this treaty.*

sig·na·ture /ˈsɪgnətʃəʳ/ *n* **1** a person's name written by himself/herself, e.g. at the end of a letter, or on a cheque or official paper as a mark that the document is AUTHENTIC: *They returned her cheque because she hadn't put her signature on it.* –compare AUTOGRAPH[1] **2** the act of signing one's name: *Will you witness my signature?* –see also KEY SIGNATURE, TIME SIGNATURE

signature tune /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a short piece of music used regularly in broadcasting to begin and end a particular show or as the special mark of a radio station –compare THEME SONG

sign·board /ˈsaɪnbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* a board with a sign or notice on it esp. giving details of a future event or advertising a product

sig·net /ˈsɪgnɪt/ *n* an object used for printing a small pattern in WAX as an official or private SEAL[2] (1), and often fixed to or part of a finger ring (a **signet ring**)

sig·nif·i·cance /sɪgˈnɪfɪkəns/ *n* [S;U] *rather fml* the quality of being significant; importance, meaning, or value: *This new discovery of oil is of great significance to the country's economy.* | *Could you explain to me the significance of this part of the contract?* | *The peace talks have taken on a new significance now that there has been a change of leadership.* –opposite **insignificance**

sig·nif·i·cant /sɪgˈnɪfɪkənt/ *adj* **1** of noticeable importance, effect, or influence: *There has been a significant improvement in the company's safety record.* | *This is one of the most significant studies of the subject.* | *significant changes in the employment laws* | *There has been no significant rainfall for weeks.* –opposite **insignificant** **2** having a special meaning, indirectly expressed: *a significant smile* | *It is significant that the government has not actually denied these rumours.* –~**ly** *adv* : *The police released him but, significantly, they didn't give him back his passport.*

significant oth·er /·ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n AmE infml or humor* one's

husband, wife, or lover; a person that one has a marriage-like relationship with

sig·nif·i·ca·tion /ˌsɪgnɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n fml or pomp* the intended meaning of a word; SENSE¹ (5)

sig·ni·fy /ˈsɪgnɪfaɪ/ *v* **1** [T] *fml* to be a sign of; represent; mean; DENOTE: *What does this strange mark signify? | His latest speech may signify a shift in his foreign policy.* [+*that*] *A fever usually signifies that there is something wrong with the body.* **2** [I;T] *fml* to make known (esp. an opinion) by an action: *Will those in favour of the suggestion please signify (their agreement) by raising their hands?* **3** [I;T *usu. in questions and negatives*] to matter; have importance (for): *What does it signify if you're rich or poor, as long as you're happy? | Never mind that mistake; it doesn't signify.*

sign·ing /ˈsaɪnɪŋ/ *n BrE* someone who has just signed a contract to play or perform, esp. in football: *McGregor, our latest signing, will play his first game next Saturday.*

sign lan·guage /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a system of hand movements for expressing meanings, esp. as used by DEAF people

►CULTURAL NOTE Though the US and Britain share a spoken language, the sign languages used by deaf people in the two countries are not the same.◄

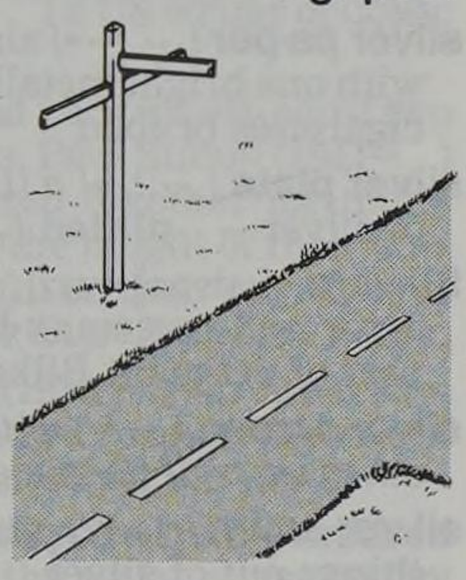
Si·gnor /siːˈnjɔːr, ˈsiːnjɔːr/ *n* (used as a title for an Italian-speaking man): *Signor Francatelli*

Si·gno·ra /siːˈnjɔːrə/ *n* (used as a title for a (married) Italian-speaking woman)

Si·gno·ri·na /ˌsiːnjɔːˈriːnə‖-njə-/ *n* (used as a title for an unmarried Italian-speaking girl)

sign·post¹ /ˈsaɪnpəʊst/ *n* a sign showing directions and distances, esp. at a place where roads meet: *follow the signposts | The signpost said "Bedford 2 miles".*

signpost



signpost² *v* [T] *esp. BrE* **1** [*usu. pass.*] to provide with signposts to guide the driver: *These country roads aren't very well signposted.* **2** to show clearly and unmistakably: *They have signposted their conclusions in the report.*

Si·ha·nouk /ˈsiːənuːk/, **Prince Nor·o·dom** /ˌnɒrəˈdɒm‖ ˌnɔːrəˈdɑːm/ (1922–) the ruler of Cambodia during many of the years from 1941, under titles including king, PRIME MINISTER, and head of state. Starting in 1982 he led the government in EXILE of Cambodia. He returned to his country in 1991.

Sikes /saɪks/, **Bill** a violent thief who murders his girlfriend in Charles Dickens' book *Oliver Twist*

Sikh /siːk / *n* a member of a religion (**Sikhism**) that developed from Hinduism in the 16th century to become a completely separate religion which is important in modern India. Male Sikhs usu. have beards and wear TURBANS.

si·lage /ˈsaɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] grass or other plants cut and stored in a SILO away from air for preservation as winter food for cattle

Sil·bu·ry Hill /ˌsɪlbəri ˈhɪl‖-beri/ a MOUND of late NEOLITHIC times near Avebury in S England

si·lence¹ /ˈsaɪləns/ *n* **1** [U] absence of sound; complete quiet: *There was nothing but silence in the empty house. | The silence was broken by a loud cry.* **2** [U] the state of not speaking or making a noise: *She received the bad news* **in silence.** *| Her forceful argúments* **reduced** *her opponents* **to silence.** (=they could not reply) **3** [U **(on)**] failure to mention a particular thing, esp. when unexpected or difficult to explain: *I can't understand the government's silence on such an important matter.* **4** [U] failure to write a letter, to telephone, etc.: *After two years' silence he suddenly got in touch with us again.* **5** [C] a moment or period of any of these conditions: *We observed a one-minute silence in memory of the war dead. | His offensive remarks were followed by an embarrassed silence. | There were long unexplained silences between her letters.* **6 silence is golden** *saying* it is good to be completely quiet —see also CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

silence² *v* [T] **1** to cause or force to stop making a noise: *He silenced the noisy children with a fierce look. | The enemy's guns were silenced* (=prevented from firing) *by repeated bombings.* **2** to force to stop expressing opinions, making opposing statements, etc.: *The president silenced his opponents by having them put in prison.*

si·lenc·er /ˈsaɪlənsəʳ/ *n* an apparatus for reducing noise, such as **a** a part for fitting round the end of the barrel of a small gun **b** *BrE* ‖ **muffler** *AmE*– a part of a petrol engine which fits onto the EXHAUST pipe (=where burnt gases come out)

si·lent /ˈsaɪlənt/ *adj* **1** free from noise; quiet: *the silent hours of the night | The old house was quite silent. | When it is operating, this dishwasher is almost silent.* **2** not speaking or using spoken expression: *a silent prayer | silent reading* **3** [**(on)**] making no statement; failing or refusing to express an opinion, decision, etc.: *The law is silent on this difficult point. | If you are arrested you have a right to remain silent.* **4** (of a letter in a word) not having a sound; not pronounced: *The "w" in "wreck" is silent.* **5 silent as the grave** completely silent, perhaps suggesting mystery —~**ly** *adv*

silent film /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* also **silent** *BrE infml* ‖ **silent mov·ie** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *esp. AmE*– a film with no sound, esp. a black and white film made before 1927 and starring (STAR²) people such as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Rudolph Valentino. People's movements in them appear sudden and not at all smooth. A few words appeared on the screen to help people follow the story, and a piano was usu. played in the cinema when they were shown. —compare TALKIE

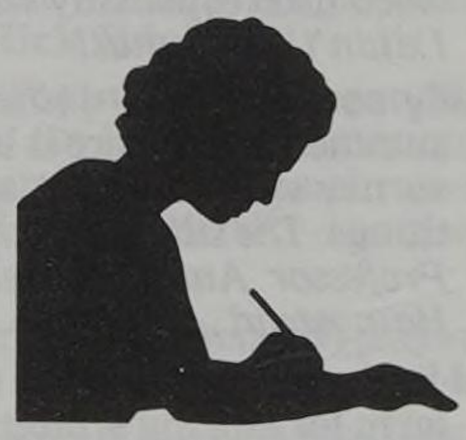
silent ma·jor·i·ty /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [*the*] *esp. AmE* most of the people in a country, thought of as quietly accepting and supporting the actions of the government

Silent Night /ˌ·· ˈ·/ the title of and first words of a popular Christmas song (CAROL), originally written in German and now sung in many languages

silent part·ner /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n AmE for* SLEEPING PARTNER

sil·hou·ette¹ /ˌsɪluˈet/ *n* a dark image, shadow, or shape, seen against a light background: *When she switched on the light her silhouette appeared on the curtain. | I saw the silhouette of the tower against the dawn sky.*

silhouette



silhouette² *v* [T **(against, on)** *usu. pass.*] to cause to appear as a silhouette: *The birds were silhouetted against the bright sky.*

sil·i·ca /ˈsɪlɪkə/ *n* [U] a chemical compound that is found naturally as sand, QUARTZ, and FLINT and is used in making glass

sil·i·cate /ˈsɪlɪkeɪt, -kɪt/ *n* [C;U] *tech* any of a large group of very common solid mineral substances

sil·i·con /ˈsɪlɪkən/ *n* [U] a simple substance (ELEMENT) that is not metal and is found in combined forms in nature in great quantities

silicon chip /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* a CHIP¹ (6) in a computer or other ELECTRONIC machinery

Silicon Val·ley /ˌ··· ˈ··/ a part of California, largely around San Francisco and San Jose, famous for the invention and production of computers and SILICON CHIPS

sil·i·cone /ˈsɪlɪkəʊn/ *n* [U] any of a group of chemicals that are unchanged by heat and cold, and are used in making types of rubber, oil, and RESIN (2)

silicone im·plant /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* a piece of silicone that is put into the body, esp. during COSMETIC SURGERY. The most common type of silicone implant is one put into a woman's breast to make it appear larger. There has recently been some disagreement among doctors as to whether these implants may have a harmful effect on the body.

sil·i·co·sis /ˌsɪlɪˈkəʊsɪs/ *n* [U] a lung disease, esp. among miners, stonecutters, etc., caused by breathing of SILICA dust over long periods —compare BLACK LUNG, PNEUMOCONIOSIS

silk /sɪlk/ *n* **1** [U] (smooth soft cloth made from) fine thread which is produced by a silkworm: *a dress made of the finest silk | artificial silk | a silk blouse|kimono*

►CULTURAL NOTE Silk is an expensive material, and clothes or other objects made of silk are considered to be beautiful and to suggest that the owner is rich.◄

2 [C] *BrE tech* a KC or QC **3 take silk** *BrE tech* to become a K.C. or Q.C. —see also SILKS **4 you can't make a silk purse from/out of a sow's ear** nothing good can be made from material that is bad, or of poor quality

silk·en /ˈsɪlkən/ *adj lit* **1** soft, smooth, and shiny like silk; silky: *silken hair* **2** made of silk: *silken garments*

Silk Road /ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the*] an ancient ROUTE along which silk was carried from China through Asia to the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe

silks /sɪlks/ *n* [U;P] the coloured shirts worn by JOCKEYS

silk screen /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] a way of printing on a surface by forcing paint or ink onto it through a specially prepared stretched piece of cloth

silk·worm /ˈsɪlkwɜːm‖-wɜːrm/ *n* a CATERPILLAR (=type of young insect) which produces a COCOON (=a covering for its body) of silk

silk·y /ˈsɪlki/ *adj* like silk; soft, smooth and shiny; fine: *the cat's fine silky fur* | *silky hair* | (fig.) *a silky voice* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

sill /sɪl/ *n* the flat piece at the base of an opening or frame, esp. a window —see also WINDOWSILL

sil·la·bub /ˈsɪləbʌb/ *n* SYLLABUB

Sills /sɪlz/, **Bev·er·ly** /ˈbevəli ‖ -ər-/ (1929–) an American OPERA singer and actress

sil·ly[1] /ˈsɪli/ *adj* **1** having or showing a lack of good sense and judgment; foolish; not serious or sensible: *It's silly to go out in the rain if you don't have to.* | *How silly of me! I've left my key at home.* | *He's called Algernon? What a silly name!* | *a silly-looking hat* | *That's the silliest idea I've ever heard!* **2** [F] *infml* unable to think or feel clearly; senseless: *I took a swing at him and knocked him silly.* | *After-dinner speeches bore me silly.* (=very much) **3** (of a fielding (FIELD[2] (1)) position in cricket) in front of and dangerously near the BATSMAN: *silly mid-off* —**-iness** *n* [U]

silly[2] also **silly bil·ly** /ˈ·· ˌ··/– *n infml* a silly person; a word used especially when talking to children: *No, silly, I didn't mean that!*

silly sea·son /ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] *infml, esp. BrE* a period in the summer when there is less political news than usual, and so newspapers print silly stories about unimportant things: *The silly season must be upon us when a letter from Professor Anthony Field is devoted to hamburgers in Hampstead.*

si·lo /ˈsaɪləʊ/ *n* **-los** **1** a round tower-like enclosure on a farm for storing winter food for cattle **2** a large underground enclosure used **a** as a base from which a large MISSILE can be fired **b** for storing e.g. winter food or FUEL

silt[1] /sɪlt/ *n* [U] loose sand, mud, soil, etc., carried in running water and then dropped, e.g. at the entrance to a harbour, by a bend in a river, etc.

silt[2] *v*

silt up *phr v* [I;T (=**silt** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to fill or become filled with silt: *The old harbour silted up years ago; it's now all silted up.*

sil·van /ˈsɪlvən/ *adj esp. lit* SYLVAN

sil·ver[1] /ˈsɪlvəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] a soft whitish precious metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), carries electricity very well, can be brightly polished, and is used in jewellery, coins, and knives, forks, etc.: *hallmarked silver* **2** [U] coins made of silver or a similar metal, and not of copper: *All I've got is a £5 note and about a pound in silver.* **3** [U] spoons, forks, dishes, etc., for the table, made of silver or a similar metal: *to polish the silver* **4** [C] a SILVER MEDAL **5 sell off the family silver** to sell a valuable ASSET (=piece of property), which ought to be kept for future use, for less than its real value in order to get money quickly and easily. The phrase was used a lot in the 1980s in speaking of the government's PRIVATIZATION of companies formerly owned by the state. **6 thirty pieces of silver** (in the Bible) the payment that Judas received for betraying (BETRAY) Jesus. The expression is sometimes used to describe money that someone receives for a disloyal action.

silver[2] *adj* **1** made of silver: *polished silver forks* | *Is your ring silver?* —see also SILVER SPOON **2** of the colour of silver: *a silver-haired old man*

silver[3] *v* [T] *tech* to cover with a thin shiny silver-coloured surface so as to make a mirror

Silver[1] the name of the Lone Ranger's horse. The Lone Ranger used to cry out "Hi ho Silver away!" before galloping (GALLOP) away on him. —see also LONE RANGER

Silver[2]**, Long John** see LONG JOHN SILVER

silver an·ni·ver·sa·ry /ˌ·· ··ˈ···/ *n AmE* SILVER WEDDING

silver birch /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the common BIRCH tree, which has a silvery-white trunk and branches

silver cer·tif·i·cate /ˈ·· ·ˌ···/ *n* the former official name of US paper money, when there was a quantity of silver held by the government worth the value represented

silver dol·lar /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a former US one dollar coin, now collected and valuable because of its high silver content

sil·ver·fish /ˈsɪlvəfɪʃ‖-ər-/ *n* **-fish** *or* **-fishes** a small silver-coloured wingless insect which is found in houses and which sometimes damages paper and cloth

silver ju·bi·lee /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* the date that is exactly 25 years after the date of a particular important event: *to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee* —compare DIAMOND JUBILEE, GOLDEN JUBILEE

silver lin·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* an unexpected good side or good result of a bad or unfortunate happening (from a phrase **every cloud has a silver lining**): *However much gloom and doom might appear the order of the day in the current business world, there is invariably a silver lining somewhere doing its best to break through the depression.*

silver med·al /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **silver–** *n* a MEDAL of silver given to the person who comes second in a race or competition —see also BRONZE MEDAL, GOLD MEDAL

silver pa·per /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ also **silver foil** /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/– *n* [U] paper with one bright metallic surface, used e.g. in packets for cigarettes or food

silver plate /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] metal with a thin outer surface of silver – **-plated** /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* : *a silver-plated spoon*

Sil·vers /ˈsɪlvəz‖-vərz/, **Phil** /fɪl/ (1912–85) an American actor and COMEDIAN best remembered for playing the part of Sergeant Bilko —see also Sergeant BILKO

silver screen /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] the film industry: *Chaplin and other stars of the silver screen*

sil·ver·smith /ˈsɪlvəˌsmɪθ‖-ər-/ *n* a person who makes things out of silver

silver spoon /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **born with a silver spoon in one's mouth** to be born into a very wealthy family: *She was born with a silver spoon in her mouth, so she has no idea how most people live.*

Sil·ver·stone /ˈsɪlvəstəʊn‖-vər-/ a motor racing CIRCUIT (1) in Northamptonshire in England

silver-tongued /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj esp. lit* able to give fine persuading speeches; ELOQUENT

sil·ver·ware /ˈsɪlvəweəʳ‖-vər-/ *n* [U] **1** things made of silver, esp. knives, spoons, dishes, etc. **2** *AmE* CUTLERY made of any metal

silver wed·ding /ˌ·· ˈ··/– also **silver wed·ding an·ni·versa·ry** *BrE* /ˌ·· ˈ·· ··ˌ···/‖**silver anniversary** *esp. AmE*– *n* the date that is exactly 25 years after the date of a wedding and on which people usually celebrate. It is customary to give people who have been married for 25 years presents made of silver. —compare DIAMOND WEDDING, GOLDEN WEDDING

sil·ver·y /ˈsɪlvəri/ *adj* **1** like silver in shine and colour **2** *esp. lit* having a pleasant metallic or musical sound: *silvery bells* | *peals of silvery laughter*

Sim /sɪm/, **Al·as·tair** /ˈæləsteəʳ/ (1900–76) a Scottish stage and film actor

Si·me·non /ˈsiːmənɒn‖ˌsiːməˈnɔːn/, **Georges** /ʒɔːʒ‖ʒɔːrʒ/ (1903–89) a French writer esp. of DETECTIVE stories. His most famous character is the detective Inspector Maigret —see also MAIGRET

sim·i·an /ˈsɪmiən/ *adj, n tech* (of or like) a monkey or APE

sim·i·lar /ˈsɪmələʳ, ˈsɪmɪləʳ/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] like or alike; of the same kind; almost but not exactly the same in nature or appearance: *He was advised not to eat bread, cake, and other similar foods.* | *We have similar opinions; my opinions are similar to hers.* | *These two signatures are very similar; can you tell them apart?* | *My train was 20 minutes late in the morning and there was a similar delay in the evening.* **2** [*no comp.*] *tech* exactly the same in shape but

not size: *Similar triangles have equal angles.* —see also SIMILARLY; see SAME (USAGE)

sim·i·lar·i·ty /ˌsɪmɨˈlærɨti/ *n* [(**between**)] **1** [U] the quality of being alike or like something else; RESEMBLANCE: *How much similarity is there between the two religions?* | *What strikes me about his poetry is its similarity to Wordsworth's.* **2** [C] a point or quality in which things are similar: *The police say there are some similarities between this murder and one that happened last year.*

sim·i·lar·ly /ˈsɪmɨləli‖-ərli/ *adv* **1** in a similar way: *They were similarly dressed.* **2** as is similar: *Men must wear a jacket and tie; similarly, women must wear a skirt or dress, not trousers.*

sim·i·le /ˈsɪmɨli/ *n* [C;U] (the use of) an expression which describes one thing by directly comparing it with another (as in *as white as snow*), using the words **as** or **like** —compare METAPHOR

sim·mer[1] /ˈsɪməʳ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) cook gently in liquid at or just below boiling point: *The soup was left to simmer.* | (fig.) *The crowd was* **simmering with** *excitement* (=could hardly control its excitement) *as the two fighters stepped into the ring.* —see COOK (USAGE)

simmer down *phr v* [I *often imperative*] *infml* to become calmer; control one's excitement: *Simmer down, Mary; it won't help to lose your temper.*

simmer[2] *n* [S] a heat just below boiling; condition of simmering: *Bring the vegetables to a simmer.*

sim·nel cake /ˈsɪmnəl ˌkeɪk/ *n* a rich cake formerly eaten on certain religious days esp. in Lancashire, NW England

Si·mon /ˈsaɪmən/, **Neil** /niːl/ (1927–) a US writer of COMIC plays and musical shows

Simon and Gar·fun·kel /ˌsaɪmən ənd gɑːˈfʌŋkəl‖-gɑːr-/ two American popular music singers, Paul Simon (1941–) and Art Garfunkel, who appeared together for many years. They separated in 1970 at the height of their success and have both been successful on their own. One of their best-known songs is *Bridge Over Troubled Water.*

Si·mone /sɪˈməʊn/, **Ni·na** /ˈniːnə/ (1933–) an American JAZZ singer and piano player known for her support of the CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT in the US in the 1960s

Simon Says /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a game played usu. by children in which players do not perform the action suggested by the leader except when he/she says the words "Simon says" first: *"Simon says touch your nose."*

si·mo·ny /ˈsɪməni, ˈsaɪ-/ *n* [U] *derog* (in former times) the buying and selling of appointments in the Christian church

sim·pat·i·co /sɪmˈpætɪkəʊ/ *adj AmE infml* **1** (of a person) likable **2** in agreement: *He and I are simpatico about a lot of things.*

sim·per /ˈsɪmpəʳ/ *v* [I] to smile in a silly unnatural way; used especially of girls —**simper** *n* — ~**ingly** *adv*

sim·ple /ˈsɪmpəl/ *adj* **1** without decoration; plain; not ELABORATE: *a simple dress* | *simple but well-prepared food* | *Their buildings are constructed in a plain and simple style.* **2** easy to understand or do; not difficult: *a simple explanation* | *The plan sounds simple enough but it won't be so simple to put it into action.* | *a simple but effective solution to the problem* | *I wish we could offer you more money, but I'm afraid it's not as simple as that.* **3** consisting of only one thing or part, rather than a number of parts combined: *Bacteria are simple forms of life.* | *A knife is a simple tool.* | *A* **simple sentence** *has only one verb.* —compare COMPLEX[1] (3), COMPOUND[2] (2) **4** (of something non-physical) without anything added or mixed; pure: *She did it for the simple reason that she had no choice.* | *His motive was simple greed, nothing else.* | *The simple truth is, I don't know.* **5** making no claim to special qualities, abilities, or importance; natural or sincere: *I'm just a simple farmer.* | *a woman of simple tastes* | *simple faith* **6** easily tricked; foolish: *You may be joking but she's simple enough to believe you.* **7** [F] *euph, old use* weak-minded: *I'm afraid old Jack is a bit simple.* —see also SIMPLY

simple frac·ture /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n med* a broken or cracked bone which does not cut through the surrounding flesh —compare COMPOUND FRACTURE

simple in·terest /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] interest calculated on an original sum of money without adding in the interest already earned —compare COMPOUND INTEREST

simple life /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [*the*+S] *infml apprec* life without the problems of having many possessions, using modern machines, etc.

simple ma·chine /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n tech* any of the several machine parts, such as the wheel, LEVER, screw, etc., of which all machinery is made

simple-mind·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* having little ability to think or understand, or little experience of the world: *The instructions are so easy I should think even the most simple-minded person could follow them.*

Simple Si·mon /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a foolish person who believes anything and everything (from the name of a foolish young man in a NURSERY RHYME)

sim·ple·ton /ˈsɪmpəltən/ *n old-fash* a weak-minded trusting person

sim·pli·ci·ty /sɪmˈplɪsɨti/ *n* [U] the quality of being simple: *She writes with a beautiful simplicity of style.* | *He believes everything with childlike simplicity.* | *For the sake of simplicity* (=to make it easy to understand) *the tax form is divided into three sections.* | *The plan was* **simplicity itself** (=very simple); *how could it fail?*

sim·pli·fy /ˈsɪmplɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] to make plainer, easier, or less full of detail: *Try to simplify your explanation for the children.* | *an attempt to simplify the tax laws* —compare COMPLICATE (1); see also OVERSIMPLIFY —**-fication** /ˌsɪmplɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

sim·plis·tic /sɪmˈplɪstɪk/ *adj derog* treating difficult matters as if they were simple; tending to OVERSIMPLIFY: *This is a very complex problem, and we won't get anywhere with such simplistic solutions.* — ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sim·ply /ˈsɪmpli/ *adv* **1** in a simple way; easily, plainly, clearly, or naturally: *On her small income they live very simply.* | *To put it simply* (=to explain it in a simple way), *the new proposals mean that the average worker will be about 10% better paid.* **2** just; only: *I don't like driving; I do it simply because I have to get to work each day.* | *I'm afraid I simply don't know.* **3** *infml* really; very (much): *What a simply gorgeous day it is today!*

Simply Red /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a British band which plays popular music. Their main singer is **Mick Hucknall**.

Simp·son[1] /ˈsɪmpsən/, **Bart** /bɑːt‖bɑːrt/ the boy from the CARTOON family the Simpsons. He is a TROUBLEMAKER who often rides a SKATEBOARD and has various phrases which he typically uses, e.g. "Eat my shorts". —see also SIMPSONS

Simpson[2], **O J** (1947–) an American FOOTBALL (2) player who later became an actor

Simp·son[3] /ˈsɪmpsən/, **Wal·lis** /ˈwɒlɨs‖ˈwɑː-/ (1896–1986) the American-born woman, often known simply as **Mrs Simpson**, who married Edward, Duke of Windsor (formerly Edward VIII). When they married she became the Duchess of Windsor —see also ABDICATION

Simp·sons /ˈsɪmpsənz/, **the** an American CARTOON family, Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and baby Maggie. They are yellow with bulging (BULGE[2]) eyes, and the children have SPIKY heads. They are a fun-loving family with an attitude that many people, esp. older people, find rather offensive.

sim·u·la·crum /ˌsɪmjʊˈleɪkrəm/ *n* **-crums** *or* **-cra** /krə/ [(**of**)] *lit or fml* a likeness or representation

sim·u·late /ˈsɪmjʊleɪt/ *v* **1** [T] *fml or tech* to give the effect or appearance of; IMITATE: *A sheet of metal was shaken to simulate the noise of thunder.* **2** to make a working model or representation of (a situation or process)

sim·u·lat·ed /ˈsɪmjʊleɪtɨd/ *adj fml or tech* made to look, feel, etc., like the real thing: *This coat is made of simulated fur; it's not real mink.* | *a simulated nuclear explosion*

sim·u·la·tion /ˌsɪmjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (**of**)] **1** *fml or tech* (a) representation; IMITATION **2** a model or representation of a course of events in business, science, etc., esp. by computer calculation to study the effects of possible future changes or decisions

sim·u·la·tor /ˈsɪmjʊleɪtəʳ/ *n* an apparatus which allows a person in training to feel what real conditions are like, for example in traffic or in an aircraft, spacecraft, etc.: *a flight simulator*

sim·ul·cast /ˈsɪməlkɑːst‖ˈsaɪməlkæst/ *v* **simulcast** [T *usu. passive*] *AmE* to broadcast (a programme) on television

and radio at the same time, so as to take advantage of the better sound quality on radio: *The concert is being simulcast live on Channel 11 and WFMT.* —**simulcast** *n*

sim·ul·ta·ne·ous /ˌsɪməlˈteɪniəs◂‖ˌsaɪ-/ *adj* happening or done at exactly the same time: *There was a flash of lightning and a simultaneous crash of thunder.* | *a simultaneous broadcast of the concert on TV and radio* — ~**ly** *adv*: *Two books on the same subject appeared simultaneously.* — ~**ness, -ity** /ˌsɪməltəˈniːɨti‖ˌsaɪ-/*fml*— *n* [U]

sin[1] /sɪn/ *n* **1** [C] an offence against God or a religious law: *The Bible says adultery is a sin.* | *the sin of pride* | *to commit a sin* —compare CRIME **2** [U] *fml* disobedience to God: *Which of us is without sin?* **3** [C] *infml, esp. humor* something that is regarded as wrong or shameful: *I think it's a sin, all this money they're wasting on the new leisure centre.* **4 for one's sins** *humor* (used for suggesting jokingly that something is rather like a punishment): *I'm the local party organizer, for my sins.* **5 the sins of the father** bad actions done by someone in the past, which cause trouble for someone else in the present **6 live in sin** *old-fash euph or humor* (of two unmarried people) to live together as if married —see also SEVEN DEADLY SINS **7 your sins will find you out** *saying* your bad actions will be discovered, and you will be punished for them. This phrase is often used humorously: *Haven't you answered his letter yet? You bad 'un, your sins will find you out!* — ~**less** *adj*

sin[2] *v* **-nn-** [I (**against**)] to break God's laws; do wrong: *"We have sinned against you and against our fellow men."* (prayer) —see also SINNER

sin[3] *abbrev. for:* SINE

Si·nai[1] /ˈsaɪnaɪ/ the part of Egypt between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez and the Suez Canal

Sinai[2]**, Mount** the mountain in the Middle East on which, according to the Bible, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God

Si·na·tra /sɨˈnɑːtrə/**, Frank** (1915–) an American popular music singer and film actor. He first became successful as a singer with big bands in the 1940s. One of his most famous songs is *My Way*. He is one of the best-known and most successful popular singers of the 20th century, and is sometimes called **"Old Blue Eyes"** by people who like him very much. People sometimes joke that someone has "retired (RETIRE) more times than Frank Sinatra", because Sinatra has said that he is retiring several times but has always returned to making public performances. —see colour picture on page 554

Sin·bad /ˈsɪnbæd/ see SINDBAD

since[1] /sɪns/ *adv* (used with the present perfect or past perfect tenses) **1** at a time between then and now: *Her husband died ten years ago but she has since remarried.* | *I saw him on Wednesday, but I haven't spoken to him since.* | *The 1948 election was unlike any other election, before or since.* **2** from then until now: *He came to England three years ago and has lived here* **ever since.** **3** before now; ago: *I've* **long since** *forgotten what our quarrel was about.*

since[2] *prep* **1** (used with the present perfect or past perfect tenses) from (a point in past time) until now; during the period after: *I haven't seen her since last week/since her illness.* | *Until last week I hadn't seen her since 1973.* | *The book has sold over a million copies since its publication.* | *It's a long time since breakfast.* —compare FOR[1] (7) **2 since when** *AmE infml* (used in questions to express surprise and disapproval): *Since when do you eat with your elbows on the table?* | *Since when am I supposed to keep track of her every time she leaves the house?*

since[3] *conj* **1** (used with the present perfect or past perfect tenses) **a** after the past time when: *It's been years since I enjoyed myself so much as last night.* | *When I met him last week, it was the first time we had seen each other since we were at school.* | *Since leaving Paris, we've visited Brussels and Amsterdam.* **b** continuously (and up to the present time) from the time when: *We've been friends* **(ever) since** *we met at school.* **2** as; as it is a fact that; because: *Since you can't answer the question, perhaps we'd better ask someone else.* | *He must have shut the door since he was the last one to leave.*

sin·cere /sɪnˈsɪəʳ/ *adj* (of a person, feelings, or behaviour) without any deceit or falseness; real, true, or honest; GENUINE: *a sincere apology* | *He has a sincere admiration for his opponent's qualities.* | *I don't think she was completely sincere in what she said.* —opposite **insincere**

sin·cere·ly /sɪnˈsɪəli‖-ˈsɪər-/ *adv* **1** in a sincere way; truly: *I sincerely hope your father will be well again soon.* | *a sincerely held belief* **2 Yours sincerely/Sincerely yours** (the usual polite way of ending a formal letter when addressing someone by their actual name) —see YOURS (USAGE)

sin·cer·i·ty /sɪnˈserɨti/ *n* [U] the quality of being sincere; honesty and lack of deceit: *I don't doubt her sincerity.* | *I may say* **in all sincerity** *that your support has been very valuable.* —opposite **insincerity**

Sin·clair[1] /ˈsɪŋkleəʳ/**, Sir Clive** /klaɪv/ (1940–) an English inventor of electronic equipment, e.g. the first pocket television —see also SINCLAIR C5

Sinclair[2]**, Up·ton** /ˈʌptən/ (1878–1968) an American writer whose NOVELS, esp. *The Jungle*, about the meat industry, brought attention to injustices and wrongs in many areas of society

Sinclair C5 /ˌsɪŋkleə siː ˈfaɪv‖-kleər-/ *n tdmk* a small car for one person invented by Sir Clive Sinclair in 1985. It used a BATTERY and PEDALS, and never became very popular.

Sind·bad , Sinbad /ˈsɪnbæd/ also **Sindbad the Sail·or** /ˌ·· ·ˈ·ˌ·/— the main character in a story from the *Arabian Nights*, who has many adventures at sea —see also ARABIAN NIGHTS, ROC, OLD MAN OF THE SEA

Sin·dy /ˈsɪndi/ also **Sindy doll** /ˈ·· ˌ·/— *tdmk* (in Britain) a small toy DOLL in the shape of an attractive young woman which is very popular among young girls. She can be dressed in many different sets of clothes — compare BARBIE DOLL

sine /saɪn/ *n tech* the FRACTION (1) calculated for an angle by dividing the length of the side opposite it in a RIGHT-ANGLED TRIANGLE by the length of the side opposite the right angle —compare COSINE, TANGENT

si·ne·cure /ˈsaɪnɪkjʊəʳ, ˈsɪn-/ *n often derog* a paid job with few or no duties

si·ne di·e /ˌsaɪni ˈdaɪ-iː, ˌsɪni ˈdiːeɪ/ *adv Lat tech* without fixing a date for a next meeting: *The meeting was adjourned sine die.*

sin·e qua non /ˌsɪni kwɑː ˈnəʊn‖-ˈnɑːn/ *n* [(**for, of**)] *Lat fml* a necessary condition; what must exist or be had in order for something else to be possible: *A good knowledge of Italian is a sine qua non for the job in our Rome office.*

sin·ew /ˈsɪnjuː/ *n* [C;U] **1** *not tech* a strong cord in the body connecting a muscle to a bone; TENDON **2** also **sinews** *pl.*— *lit* means of strength or support: *the sinew(s) of our national defence*

sin·ew·y /ˈsɪnjuːi/ *adj* **1** (of meat) containing sinew; not easy to cut or eat **2** having strong muscles

sin·ful /ˈsɪnfəl/ *adj* **1** *esp. lit or bibl* being or guilty of sin; wicked: *a sinful deed/man* **2** *infml* seriously wrong or bad; REGRETTABLE: *a sinful waste of time and money* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

sing[1] /sɪŋ/ *v* **sang** /sæŋ/, **sung** /sʌŋ/ **1** [I;T] to produce (music, musical sounds, songs, etc.) with the voice: *Birds sing loudest in the early morning.* | *We enjoy singing carols at Christmas.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Sing us a song.* | *She sang her baby to sleep.* (=sang to make it go to sleep) **2** [I] to make or be filled with a high ringing sound: *My ears are still singing from the loud noise.* | *An enemy bullet sang past my ear.* **3** [I (**of**);T] *lit* to speak, tell about, or praise in poetry: *Poets sang the king's praises* (=praised him); *they sang of his brave deeds.*

sing along *phr v* [I] to sing with someone: *Sing along if you know the words.*

sing (sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* [I;T] *infml* to shout or sing loudly: *Sing out if you think you know the answer.*

sing[2] *n AmE* an occasion of many people or CHOIRS singing together: *There will be an all-fraternity sing next Friday night.* —see also SING SING

sing. *written abbrev. for:* singular

Sing·a·pore /ˌsɪŋəˈpɔːʳ◂‖ˈsɪŋgəpɔːr/ a country in SE Asia, well known as a business and COMMERCIAL centre; capital Singapore City; population 2,685,000 (1989)

Sing a song of six·pence /ˌ· · ˌ· · ˈ··/ a well-known NURSERY RHYME (=old poem for children) which begins:

Sing a song of sixpence, A pocket full of rye,
Four-and-twenty blackbirds, Baked in a pie.
When the pie was opened, The birds began to sing,
Now wasn't that a dainty dish, To set before the king?

singe[1] /sɪndʒ/ *v* [T] to burn lightly on the surface or edge: *I'm afraid I've singed your shirt with the hot iron.* | *He got too near the fire and singed his beard.*

singe[2] *n* a slight burn; an act or mark of singeing

sing·er /ˈsɪŋəʳ/ *n* a person who sings, esp. as a way of making money: *Placido Domingo, the famous opera singer* | *a pop singer* | *She's a good singer.*

Singer, I·saac Ba·shev·is /ˈaɪzək bɑːˈʃevɨs/ (1904–91) an American Jewish writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He is best known for his short stories. He wrote in Yiddish but his work was translated into English and many other languages.

singer-song·writ·er /ˌsɪŋə ˈsɒŋraɪtəʳ‖ˌsɪŋər ˈsɔːŋ-/ *n* a person who both sings and writes songs: *a concert by singer-songwriter Paul Simon*

Singh /sɪŋ/, **Vish·wa·nath Pra·tap** /ˈvɪʃwənɑːt prəˈtɑːp/ (1931–) an Indian politician, Prime Minister from 1989 after forming the **Janata Dal**, an opposition party

Sing·ha·lese /ˌsɪŋgəˈliːz◂/ *n* SINHALESE

Sing·in' in the Rain /ˌsɪŋɪn ɪn ðə ˈreɪn/ an American musical film made in 1952 with Gene Kelly. The film contains the famous song also called *Singin' in the Rain.* —see picture on page 685

sin·gle[1] /ˈsɪŋgəl/ *adj* **1** [A] being (the) only one: *The letter was written on a single sheet of paper.* | *A single tree gave shade from the sun.* | *His single aim was to make money.* | *Not a single one of her neighbours gave her any help.* **2** having only one part, quality, etc.; not double or MULTIPLE[1]: *For a strong sewing job use double, not single, thread.* | *A single flower has only one set of petals.* | *a single-sex school* (=for boys or girls only, not both) —compare DOUBLE[1] (1) **3** [A] separate; considered by itself; INDIVIDUAL: *Cigarette smoking is the single most important cause of lung cancer.* | *There's no need to write down every single word I say.* | *the highest price ever paid for a single work of art* | *It has cost us every single penny we've got.* (=all our money) —see also SINGLE PARENT **4** unmarried: *He's still single.* | *a single woman* —compare MARRIED **5** for the use of only one person: *a single bed* | *a single room in a hotel* (=with a bed for only one person) —compare DOUBLE[1] and see picture at BED (2) **6** *BrE* ‖ **one-way** *AmE*— (of a ticket or its cost) for a trip from one place to another but not back again —compare RETURN[3]; see also SINGLY

single[2] *n* **1** *BrE* a SINGLE[1] (6) ticket: *A second class single to London, please.* —compare RETURN[2] (5) **2** a record with only one short song on each side: *The group's latest single comes out on Friday.* | *a 12" single* —compare LP **3** [*usu. pl.*] an unmarried person: *a singles bar* (=where unmarried people can meet) **4 a** (in cricket) a single RUN[2] (10) **b** (in BASEBALL) a hit that allows the BATTER to reach first BASE[1] (6) **5** *AmE* a one dollar BILL: *Anybody got five singles?* —see also SINGLES

single[3] *v*

single sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**for**)] to separate or choose from a group, esp. for special treatment or attention: *They were all to blame; why single him out for punishment?*

single-breast·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* (of a coat or JACKET) fastened in the centre at the front with only one row of buttons —compare DOUBLE-BREASTED

single cream /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] (in Britain) a cream that is thinner and lighter than DOUBLE CREAM and is suitable for pouring —compare DOUBLE CREAM

single cur·ren·cy /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a CURRENCY (=type of money) that is shared by several or many, different countries. In Britain this is thought of in connection with the plans of some politicians in Europe to have only one type of money in the European Community: *paving the way for monetary union and a single currency*

single-deck·er /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *n* a bus with only one level —compare DOUBLE-DECKER

Single Eu·ro·pe·an Act /ˌ·· ··ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] an agreement in 1986 between the heads of government of the countries of the European Community to allow free movement of people, goods, and services within the European Community

Single Eu·ro·pe·an Mar·ket /ˌ·· ˌ···· ˈ··/ also **single market**— [*the*] the free movement of goods and services between the countries of the European Community, beginning in 1992

single fig·ures /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [P] the numbers from 0 to 9: *Interest rates should drop to single figures in the New Year.*

single file /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Indian file** *old-fash*— *adv, n* [U] (moving in) a line of people, vehicles, etc., one behind another: *We walked single file|in single file along the narrow passage.*

single-hand·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj, adv* [A] done by one person; working alone; without help from others: *a single-handed voyage across the Atlantic* | *He rebuilt his house single-handed.* **~ly** *adv*

single hon·ours /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *BrE* a degree course in which only one main subject is studied —compare JOINT HONOURS

single mar·ket /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] see SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET

single-mind·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* having one clear aim or purpose: *She worked with single-minded determination, letting nothing distract her.* | *He's very single-minded about his work.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

sin·gle·ness /ˈsɪŋgəlnɨs/ *n* [U] *fml* the directing of all one's thoughts, efforts, etc., to a particular aim; CONCENTRATION: *He worked with great* **singleness of purpose** (=determination) *for his friend's election.*

single pa·rent /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *n* a woman who no longer lives with the father of her children, or a man who no longer lives with the mother of his children, or a woman who has chosen to have a child on her own: *a single parent family*

sin·gles /ˈsɪŋgəlz/ *n* **singles** a match, esp. of tennis, played by one player against one other person —compare DOUBLES

singles bar /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a bar used esp. as a meeting place esp. for young, single people

sin·glet /ˈsɪŋglɨt/ *n BrE* a man's garment without SLEEVES worn as a VEST, or as an outer shirt when playing some sports

sin·gle·ton /ˈsɪŋgəltən/ *n tech* (in card games) a card that is the only one of its SUIT[1] (2) held by a player

Sin·gle·ton, Val·e·rie /ˈvæləri/ (1937–) an English television and radio PRESENTER

single track road /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a road in some country areas such as the Scottish Highlands which is only wide enough for one car. A single track road usu. has passing places to allow cars going in opposite directions to pass each other and fast cars to get past slow cars going in the same direction.

single yel·low line /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a mark along the side of a road in a town which means that you can wait there for a short time but that you cannot park there —compare DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

sin·gly /ˈsɪŋgli/ *adv* separately; by itself or themselves; one by one: *Some guests came singly, others in groups.*

Sing Sing /ˈ· ·/ a prison in New York, once widely known for its severe DISCIPLINE

sing·song /ˈsɪŋsɒŋ‖-sɔːŋ/ *n* **1** [S] a repeated rising and falling of the voice in speaking: *She talked in a strange singsong (voice).* **2** [C] *BrE* an informal gathering or party for singing songs

sin·gu·lar[1] /ˈsɪŋgjʊləʳ/ *adj* **1** of or being a word or form representing exactly one: *The noun "mouse" is singular; it is the singular form of "mice".* | *Collective nouns can be used with a singular or plural verb.* —compare PLURAL **2** *fml* very noticeable; unusually great: *a woman of singular beauty* | *He showed a singular lack of tact in the way he handled the situation.* **3** *old-fash fml* very unusual or strange; out of the ordinary —see also SINGULARLY

singular[2] *n* (a word in) a form representing only one: *"Trousers" has no singular; it can't be expressed in the singular.*

sin·gu·lar·i·ty /ˌsɪŋgjʊˈlærɨti/ *n* **1** [U] *old-fash fml* strangeness **2** [C] *tech for* BLACK HOLE **3** [C] a set of events which do not obey known laws of nature, such as those supposed to have happened at the BIG BANG, or inside a BLACK HOLE

sin·gu·lar·ly /ˈsɪŋgjʊləli‖-lərli/ *adv fml* **1** particularly; very (much): *a singularly beautiful woman* | *a singularly unsuccessful attempt to gain publicity* **2** *old-fash* strangely; in an unusual way

Sin·ha·lese /ˌsɪnhəˈliːz◂/ also **Singhalese** — *n* **1** one of the peoples of Sri Lanka **2** a language of Sri Lanka — **Sinhalese** *adj*

sin·is·ter /ˈsɪnɨstəʳ/ *adj* threatening, intending, or suggesting evil or unpleasantness: *In the shadows we could make out a sinister figure in a black cloak.* | *a sinister plot* | (*infml*) *There's a sinister-looking crack in the roof.*

sink[1] /sɪŋk/ *v* **sank** /sæŋk/*or* **sunk** /sʌŋk/, **sunk** **1** [I;T] **a** to go down below a surface, out of sight, or to the bottom (of water): *This rubber ball won't sink; it floats.* | *The ship hit a rock and sank with the loss of a hundred lives.* | *The moon sank below the hills.* | (fig.) *That actress you used to like seems to have* **sunk without trace.** (=disappeared completely from public notice) **b** to cause (esp. a ship) to sink: *The ship was sunk by an enemy torpedo.* | (fig., *infml*) *This lack of money could sink our plans* (=make them fail); *if we can't get some more investment we're sunk.* **2** [I] to fall to a lower level or position: *It was several days before the flood waters sank and life returned to normal.* **3** [I (**to**)] to get smaller; go down in number, value, strength, etc.: *The population of the island has sunk from a hundred to twenty.* | *The Bank of England took action to prevent the pound from sinking* (=losing value) *any further.* | *His voice sank to a whisper.* | (fig.) *How could you sink to (doing) this?* (=to such bad or dishonourable behaviour) **4** [I+*adv/prep*] to fall or pass uncontrollably into another state, esp. because of tiredness or lack of strength: *She fainted and sank to the ground.* | *He sank into the chair and fell asleep at once.* | *She sank into a deep sleep|into unconsciousness.* **5** [I] **a** to become weaker; fail; DETERIORATE: *The patient is* **sinking fast** *and may not live through the night.* **b** to lose confidence or hope: *My* **heart|spirits sank** *when I realized how much work I still had to do.* —see also SINKING FEELING **6** [I+*adv/prep*] to pass gradually into a worse condition; DECLINE: *a neglected inner-city area that has sunk further into poverty and decay* | *He sank into a deep depression.* | *Our hearts sank when we heard the news.* **7** [T] to make by digging into the earth: *We sank a well to try and find water.* | *to sink a mine shaft* **8** [T] to stop considering, esp. because of a more important aim; forget: *We've got to sink our differences|disagreements and fight our common enemy.* **9** [T **(in, into)**] to put (money, labour, etc.) into; INVEST: *I've sunk all my money into this business, so it had better succeed.* **10** [T] *infml* (in games like GOLF and SNOOKER) to cause (a ball) to go into a hole **11 sink or swim** to fail or succeed without help from others: *He was left by his family to sink or swim by himself.* —see also SUNKEN, **rats deserting a sinking ship** (RAT[1]) — **~able** *adj*

sink in *phr v* [I] **1** to enter a solid through the surface: *If the ink sinks in it'll be hard to remove the mark from the cloth.* **2** to become fully understood; get a firm place in the mind: *The news was such a shock, it still hasn't really sunk in yet.*

sink (sthg.) **into** sthg. *phr v* to put, force, or go below or into: *The dog sank its teeth into my leg.*

sink[2] *n* **1 a** a large open container esp. in a kitchen, for washing pans, vegetables, etc., fixed to a wall and usu. with pipes to supply and carry away water: *The dirty dishes are in the sink.* —compare WASHBASIN, and see picture at KITCHEN **b** *esp. AmE* a WASHBASIN **2** [+**of**] *esp. lit* an evil place; DEN: *a sink of corruption* —see also **everything but the kitchen sink** (KITCHEN)

sink·er /ˈsɪŋkəʳ/ *n* a weight fixed to a fishing line or net to keep the end down under water —see also **hook, line, and sinker** (HOOK)

sinking feel·ing /ˈ·· ˌ·· / *n* [S] *infml* an uncomfortable feeling in the stomach caused by hunger or by fear or helplessness, esp. because something bad is about to happen —see also SINK[1] (5b)

sinking fund /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a sum of money saved by a government, company, etc., and added to regularly, for paying a debt at a future time

sin·ner /ˈsɪnəʳ/ *n esp. lit or bibl* a person who SINS; someone who has disobeyed God

Sinn Fein /ˌʃɪn ˈfeɪn/ an Irish political organization that wishes Northern Ireland to become part of the Republic of Ireland and supports the use of force against British rule there —see IRA

Sino- see WORD FORMATION

si·nol·o·gy /saɪˈnɒlədʒi‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml* the study of Chinese language, history, literature, etc. —**-gist** *n*

sin·u·ous /ˈsɪnjuəs/ *adj* twisting like a snake; full of curves; winding: *The river wound its sinuous way across the plain.* | *a dancer's sinuous grace* —**-osity** /ˌsɪnjuˈɒsɨti‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* [C;U] — **~ly** *adv*

si·nus /ˈsaɪnəs/ *n* any of the air-filled spaces in the bones of the face that have an opening into the nose: *I always get sinus trouble* (=a sinus infection) *in cold weather.*

Sioux /suː/ also **Dakota** *n* [C;*the*+P] (a member of) a Native American people of the area of the US that is now Minnesota and North and South Dakota —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

sip[1] /sɪp/ *v* **-pp-** [I (**at**);T] to drink, taking only a little at a time into the front of the mouth: *I sipped at it suspiciously, not knowing what it was going to taste like.* | *She sipped her tea delicately.*

sip[2] *n* [(**of**)] a very small amount of a drink: *She took another sip of her tea.*

si·phon[1] **, sy-** /ˈsaɪfən/ *n* **1** a tube that is bent so that a liquid can be drawn upwards and then downwards through it to a lower level **2** a kind of bottle for holding SODA WATER and forcing it out by gas pressure: *a soda-siphon*

siphon[2] **, sy-** *v* [T (OFF, OUT)] to draw off or remove by means of a siphon: *The thieves had siphoned petrol out of my tank.* | (fig.) *We need a new road to siphon off some of the traffic from the town centre.*

sir /səʳ; *strong* sɜːʳ/ *n* **1** (used respectfully when speaking to an older man or one of higher rank, e.g. to an officer by a soldier, to a male customer in a shop, or (*BrE*) to a male teacher by a school child): *"Report back to me in an hour, sergeant." "Yes, sir."* | *Are you being served, sir?* | (*BrE*) *Sir, can we go home now please?* —compare MADAM **2 no sir!** *AmE infml* certainly not!: *I won't have any of that cheap plastic, no sir!*

Sir *n* **1** (a title used before the first name of a KNIGHT[1] (2) or BARONET): *Sir James Wilson* | *Sir James* (but not *Sir Wilson*) —see also ARISE, DUB **2** (used at the beginning of a formal letter, in such phrases as **Dear Sir(s)** or **My dear Sir**) —compare MADAM **3** *BrE infml* one's male teacher: *Look out — Sir's coming back!* —compare MISS[3] (2)

sire[1] /saɪəʳ/ *n* **1** the father of a four-legged animal, esp. a horse —compare DAM[3] **2** *old use* (used when speaking to a king): *The people await you, sire.*

sire[2] *v* [T] (esp. of a horse) to be the father of: *This horse has sired several race winners.*

si·ren /ˈsaɪərən/ *n* **1** an apparatus for making a loud long warning sound, as used on ships, police cars, and fire engines and for air-attack warnings: *factory|police sirens* — compare HORN[1] **2 a** (in ancient Greek literature) any of a group of woman-like creatures whose sweet singing caused sailors to sail towards them and caused the wreck of their ships **b** a dangerous beautiful woman; used esp. in newspapers: *screen|Hollywood sirens like Marilyn Monroe* | *a sultry blonde sex siren*

Sir·han Sir·han /sɜːˌhɑːn sɜːˈhɑːn‖sɜːrˌhæn sɜːrˈhæn/ (1944–) the man who murdered Robert Kennedy

sir·loin /ˈsɜːlɔɪn‖ˈsɜːr-/ also **sirloin steak** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* [C;U] (a piece of) BEEF cut from the best part of the lower back. Sirloin is usually expensive and therefore considered by some people as a special meal.

si·roc·co /sɨˈrɒkəʊ‖-ˈrɑː-/ *n* **-cos** a hot wind blowing from the desert of N Africa across to southern Europe

sir·rah /ˈsɪrə/ *n old use* (an angry disrespectful way of addressing a man)

Sir Win·ston Chur·chill /sə ˌwɪnstən ˈtʃɜːtʃɪl‖sər-, -ˈtʃɜːr-/ [*the*] a British sailing ship that is used to train esp. young people in TEAMWORK, and help their personal development

sis /sɪs/ *n infml, esp. AmE* (used when speaking to one's sister)

si·sal /ˈsaɪsəl, -zəl/ *n* [U] (a tropical plant whose leaves produce) a strong white thread-like substance used in making cord, rope, and mats

Sis·sing·hurst /ˈsɪsɪŋhɜːst‖-hɜːrst/ a castle in Kent, England, which has world-famous gardens

sis·sy[1] also **cissy** *BrE* /ˈsɪsi/ *n infml derog* a boy who looks or acts like a girl in some way; one who lacks qualities believed to be typical of men or boys, e.g. one who cries

sissy[2] also **sis·si·fied** /ˈsɪsɪfaɪd/, also **cissy** *BrE*— *adj infml derog* typical of a sissy; girlish

sis·ter /ˈsɪstəʳ/ *n* **1** a female relative with the same parents: *Joan and Mary are sisters.* | *Joan is Mary's younger*

sister. | *Peter has an older sister.* **2** a female member of the same group (used esp. by supporters of the WOMEN'S MOVEMENT) **3** something, such as a company or organization, that belongs to the same group as something else and is closely connected to it: *The company owns the Daily Express and its sister newspaper the Daily Star.* **4** *BrE* (*often cap.*) (a title for) a nurse (usu. a female) in charge of a department (WARD) of a hospital: *Sister Brown* | *the night sister* —compare CHARGE NURSE **5** (*often cap.*) (a title for) a woman member of a religious group, esp. a NUN: *Sister Mary* | *a Christian sister* **6** *AmE sl* (used when speaking to a woman): *All right, sister, drop that gun!*

sis·ter·hood /ˈsɪstəhʊd‖-ər-/ *n* **1** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a society of women living a religious life **2** [U] a sisterly relationship, esp. as claimed among women supporting the WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

sister-in-law /ˈ·· · ˌ·/ *n* **sisters-in-law, sister-in-laws** **1** the sister of one's husband or wife **2** the wife of one's brother **3** the wife of the brother of one's husband or wife

sis·ter·ly /ˈsɪstəli‖-ər-/ *adj* of or like a sister; typical of a loving sister: *sisterly affection* —**-liness** *n* [U]

Sis·tine chap·el /ˌsɪstiːn ˈtʃæpəl/ [*the*] a CHAPEL in the Vatican, Rome, famous for its ceiling painted by Michelangelo

Si·su·lu /sɪˌsuːluː/, **Wal·ter** /ˈwɔːltəʳ/ (1912–) a South African CIVIL RIGHTS worker and the first full-time Secretary General of the African National Congress. He was in prison for 25 years for his opposition to APARTHEID.

Sis·y·phus /ˈsɪsɪfəs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a king whose punishment after death was to roll a large BOULDER (=very big stone) to the top of a steep hill. Whenever it got near the top, it rolled down again and he had to start again. —**Sisyphean** /ˌsɪsɪˈfiːən◂/ *adj*

sit /sɪt/ *v* **sat** /sæt/; *present participle* **sitting** **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to rest on a chair or other seat or on the ground, in a position with the upper body upright and bent at the waist: *He sat at his desk working.* | *They were all sitting round the fire.* | *She usually sits at the back of the class.* | *Don't just sit there watching — come and help me!* —see USAGE **2** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) go into this position; (cause to) take a seat: *Sit down, please.* | *Come and sit over here.* | *She sat the baby (down) on the grass.* | *He came over and sat beside me/sat in the chair next to mine.* —see also SIT **down** **3** [I] (of an animal or bird) to be in or go into a position with the tail end of the body resting on a surface: *He's trained his dog to sit at the word of command.* | *a bird sitting on the wall* **4** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **on, with**] **a** to lie; rest; be in a place or position and not move: *The books sat unread on the shelf for years.* | *a village sitting on the side of a hill* | *There were some family photos sitting on the mantelpiece.* | *The coat doesn't sit well on you.* (=fits badly) **b** to be accepted pleasantly: *I don't think his dinner/our suggestions sat very well with him.* **5** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **on**] to have a position in an official body: *She sits on several committees.* | *He used to represent the Democrats but he now sits (on the council) as an Independent.* —see also SITTING[2] **6** [I] (of an official body) to have one or more meetings: *The court sat until all the arguments for both sides had been heard.* —see also SITTING[1] (4) **7** [I (**for**)] to (take up a position to) be painted or photographed: *I'm sitting for my portrait next week.* **8** [T] *esp. BrE* to take (a written examination): *I'm sitting my A-levels in the summer.* —see also SIT **for** **9** [I] (of a hen) to cover eggs to bring young birds to life **10** [I (**for**)] to BABY-SIT **11 are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin** a phrase said at the beginning of *Listen with Mother*, a former children's radio programme, and now often used humorously: *Right, here's what we've got to do this week. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.* **12 be sitting pretty** *infml* to be in a very favourable position: *With profits up 125% the company is sitting pretty.* **13 sit at the feet of** *lit or pomp* to receive instruction from; be the pupil of (esp. a famous teacher) **14 sit in judgment (on)** to give a judgment, opinion, or decision (about), sometimes when one has no right to do so **15 sit on someone's tail** to drive close behind someone for some distance, sometimes because the driver is waiting for a suitable chance to pass: *That guy's been sitting on my tail for about ten miles. I wish he'd pass me.* **16 sit tight** *infml* to keep in the same position; not move: *If your car breaks down, just sit tight and wait for the police to come along.* | (fig.) *If he tries to persuade you, just sit tight.* (=don't change your mind) —see also SITTER, SITTING[1]

▷ USAGE 1 You **sit** *at* a table or desk, *on* a chair, a branch etc., and *in* a tree or an armchair. 2 Compare **sit, be seated,** and **seat. Be seated** (*fml*) means to be in a sitting position or to find a **seat:** *He* **was seated.** (=He was in a sitting position.) | *Is everyone* **seated?** (=Has everyone found a seat?) To **seat** usually means "to provide **seats** for": *This hall will* **seat** *100 people.*◁

sit about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* to sit doing nothing, esp. while waiting or while others are active

sit back *phr v* [I] **1** to rest one's back in a comfortable chair **2** to rest and take no active part, esp. after hard effort or when action is needed: *You can't just sit back and watch while they ruin our country.* | *We've paid for this holiday, we might as well* **sit back and enjoy it.**

sit by *phr v* [I] to fail to take proper or necessary action: *I can't sit by and see these dreadful atrocities committed.*

sit down *phr v* [I *usu. in progressive forms*] to be seated; sit: *Everyone was sitting down when I came in, so I told them to stand up.* | *He gave his speech sitting down.* —see also SIT (2), SIT-DOWN

sit for sthg. *phr v* [T] *BrE* to (prepare to) take an examination for: *She sat for a scholarship but failed to win it.* —see also SIT (7,8,10)

sit in *phr v* [I] **1** [(**for, as**)] to take someone else's usual place, esp. in a regular meeting or office job: *The president is ill so the secretary will be sitting in for her (as chairman at the meeting).* **2** [(**on**)] to attend without taking an active part: *Members of the public are allowed to sit in on some Town Council meetings.* **3** to take part in a SIT-IN

sit on sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** *infml* to delay taking action on: *He's been sitting on my letter for months; why doesn't he answer it?* | *The government are sitting on this controversial report.* (=refusing to make it public) **2** *infml* to force rudely into silence or inactivity: *She's always been sat on by her elder brothers.* **3 sit on one's hands** *infml* to take no action when action is needed —see also SIT (4, 5)

sit sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to remain seated during (a dance): *I don't feel like dancing; let's sit this one out.* **2** also **sit through**— to remain seated or inactive until the end of (esp. something unpleasant): *Although we were bored to death by the play, we sat it out in silence.* | *to sit out the crisis/the war/the storm*

sit up *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**sit** sbdy. **up**)] to (cause or help to) rise to a sitting position from a lying position: *Sit up and take your medicine.* | *She sat the old man up in bed.* —see also SIT (2) **2** [I] to sit properly upright in a chair: *Sit up straight; don't slouch over the table!* **3** [I (**for**)] to stay up late; not go to bed: *We sat up to watch the midnight movie.* | *Don't sit up for me if I'm late.* **4** [I (**at, to**)] to take one's seat at a table: *Dinner's ready! Come and sit up (at/to the table).* **5** [I] *infml* to show sudden interest, surprise, or fear: *These new crime statistics should make people* **sit up and take notice.** —see also SIT-UP

si·tar /ˈsɪtɑːʳ, sɪˈtɑːʳ/ *n* a North Indian musical instrument with a long neck and a number of metal strings

sit·com /ˈsɪtkɒm‖-kɑːm/ *n* [C;U] a SITUATION COMEDY

sit-down[1] /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** also **sit-down strike** /ˌ· · ˈ·/— a stopping of work by workers in an office, factory, etc., who refuse to leave until their demands are met **2** *BrE infml* an act or period of being seated: *After all that running about I could do with a sit-down.* —see also SIT **down**

sit-down[2] *adj* [A] (of a meal) at which people are served while seated at a table: *a sit-down dinner for twenty people*

site[1] /saɪt/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a place where something of special interest existed or happened: *The site of the battle of Waterloo is in Belgium.* | *an archaeological site* **2** a piece of ground for building on: *a building construction site* | *the site of a proposed missile base* | *Protective helmets must be worn* **on site.**

site[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*; *usu. pass.*] to put or build in a particular position: *The company is trying to decide where to site the new factory.* | *The house is beautifully sited to give superb views over the valley.*

sit-in /ˈ· ·/ *n* a method of expressing dissatisfaction and anger in which a group of people enter a public place, stop its usual business, and refuse to leave: *They are*

staging a sit-in at the local hospital because the government is threatening to close it. —see also SIT **in** (3)

sit·ter /ˈsɪtəʳ/ *n* **1** a person whose picture is (being) taken or painted **2** a BABY-SITTER —see also SIT (7, 10) **3** *infml* an easy shot at GOAL in football

sit·ting[1] /ˈsɪtɪŋ/ *n* **1** a serving of a meal for a number of people at one time: *There will be two sittings for dinner, one at 7 o'clock and one at 8.30.* **2** an act or period of having one's picture taken or painted **3** a period of time spent seated in a chair: *I read the book in/at a single sitting.* **4** a meeting of an official body; SESSION —see also SIT (6,7)

sitting[2] *adj* [A] *BrE* (of a person) that is now a member of an official body, such as a parliament: *The* **sitting member** *will be hard to defeat in the election.* —see also SIT (5)

Sitting Bull /ˌ·· ˈ·/ (1834–90) a Native American chief. He and his Sioux followers defeated Custer's US army in a famous battle at Little Bighorn. He later appeared in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

sitting duck /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n infml* someone or something that is easy to attack or cheat

sitting room /ˈ·· ·/ *n esp. BrE for* LIVING ROOM

sitting tar·get /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [(**for**)] *infml* someone or something that is in a defenceless position and is easy to attack: *The company's bad performance made it a sitting target for a takeover bid from its main rival.*

sitting ten·ant /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n BrE* someone who lives in a rented house or flat

sit·u·ate /ˈsɪtʃueɪt/ *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *fml* to put in a particular place or position; LOCATE: *The council are trying to decide where to situate the new hospital.*

sit·u·at·ed /ˈsɪtʃueɪtɪd/ *adj* [F+*adv*/*prep*] **1** in the stated place or position: *The house is situated in charming surroundings/is conveniently situated for the shops.* **2** in the stated situation: *The government is rather awkwardly situated.* | *How are you situated for money?* (=have you got enough?) | *They're well situated to exploit this new market.*

sit·u·a·tion /ˌsɪtʃuˈeɪʃən/ *n* **1** a position or state at a particular time; set of conditions, facts, and events having an effect on a person, society, etc.: *With no rain for the last three years, the country is in a desperate situation.* | *What is your assessment of the current political situation?* | *the serious international debt situation* —see CONDITIONS (USAGE) **2** *old-fash or tech* a job; position in work: *She managed to get a situation as a parlour maid.* **3** *fml* a position with regard to surroundings: *The house is in a charming situation, on a wooded hillside.*

situation com·e·dy /ˌ···· ˈ···/ also **sitcom**– *n* [C;U] a popular (form of) humorous television or radio show typically having a number of standard characters who appear in different stories each week

Situations Va·cant /ˌ···· ˈ··/ also **Sits Vac** *written abbrev.*– [*the*] *BrE* the name sometimes given to the part of a newspaper where jobs are advertised: *Have you looked in the Situations Vacant columns?*

sit-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* a muscle-training movement in which someone sits up from a lying position, keeping their legs straight and on the floor

six /sɪks/ *determiner, n, pron* **1** (the number) 6 —see TABLE 1 **2** (in) cricket a hit worth six RUNS[2] (10), in which the ball crosses the edge of the playing area before touching the ground: *That's easily a six.* **3 at sixes and sevens** *BrE infml* confused or undecided; in disorder: *I'm at sixes and sevens about what to do.* **4 six of one and half a dozen of the other** *infml* (a situation that is) good and bad to an equal degree **5 six of the best** *BrE infml* a beating, esp. six blows with a stick given to a schoolchild as a punishment —see also **knock someone for six** (KNOCK[1] (5))

six-foot·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n infml* a tall person, more than six feet (1.83 metres) tall

six-pack /ˈ· ·/ *n* a set of six bottles or CANS[2] (2) of a drink sold in a paper or plastic case for carrying: *He was carrying a six-pack (of beer).*

six·pence /ˈsɪkspəns/ *n* [C;U] (in Britain until 1971) (a small silver-coloured coin worth) the sum of six pennies (PENNY); 6d

six-shoot·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **six·gun** /ˈsɪksgʌn/– *n AmE* a REVOLVER (small gun) holding six bullets

six·teen /ˌsɪkˈstiːn◂/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 16 —see TABLE 1 —see also AGE OF CONSENT —~**th** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

sixteenth note /·ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* SEMIQUAVER —see picture at NOTATION

sixth /sɪksθ/ *determiner, n, pron, adv* 6th —see TABLE 1

sixth form /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] the highest level in a British SECONDARY (1) school. Students usu. go into the sixth form at the age of about 16 and stay there for two years, preparing to take their A LEVELS. Sixth-form students usu. have more freedom in what they wear, in their choice of activities, etc., than students lower down the school —see also LOWER SIXTH, UPPER SIXTH —**sixth-former** *n* : *I'll be a sixth-former next year*

sixth-form col·lege /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a British STATE SCHOOL for students over the age of 16. Some young people prefer to go to a sixth-form college because they feel it gives them more freedom than an ordinary school. —see also extra information on page 408

sixth sense /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [S] an ability to know things without using any of the five ordinary senses: *A sixth sense told me that I was being followed.*

six·ties /ˈsɪkstiz/ *n* [P] **1** [*the*] also **'60s**– the 1960s (=the years from 1960 to 1969)

►CULTURAL NOTE The sixties are remembered as a time of great social change, when young people in many Western countries started to reject the ways of behaving and the ideas of their parents. There were many changes in the type of clothes young people wore, and in the music they listened to, and some young people took drugs and enjoyed more sexual freedom than in the past. Because of these developments, the sixties are sometimes called the **swinging sixties**. The sixties were also the time of the HIPPIES and of political protests, esp. in the US against the Vietnam War and against NUCLEAR weapons. —see also PERMISSIVE SOCIETY◄

2 in his/her/their sixties aged from 60 to 69: *"How old is she?" "I guess she's (somewhere) in her sixties."* **3** [*the*] the numbers from 60 to 69, esp. when used to measure temperature: *a cool summer day with the temperature in the low sixties* | *the upper sixties*

six·ty /ˈsɪksti/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 60 —see TABLE 1 —**tieth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

sixty-four-thou·sand-dol·lar ques·tion, $64,000 question /ˌ·· · ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··/ also [*the*] *infml* the most important and difficult question, for which the answer may not yet be known; question on whose answer a very great deal depends: *"Are you taking Pam out tonight?" "Ah, that's the sixty-four-thousand dollar question!"*

►CULTURAL NOTE This expression came into use because of a television game show which used those words before asking the last question. In the US, the programme was called *The $64,000 Challenge*, and in 1959 it was found that some of the people who played the game had been given the questions in advance so that the game was not played fairly. This caused a SCANDAL.◄

Sixty Min·utes /ˌ·· ˈ··/ an American television news programme which examines several subjects on each show. It has been on since 1968.

sixty-nine /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a sexual position in which each partner can touch the other's sex organs with the lips at the same time

size[1] /saɪz/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a degree of) bigness or smallness: *What's the size of your patio?* (=how big is it?) | *Houses come* (=are built) *in all* **shapes and sizes.** | *They are trying to estimate the size of this potential market for their new product.* | *Their army is about half the size of ours.* | *The amount of interest you pay depends on the size of the loan.* **2** [U] bigness: *The company is able to keep its prices down simply because of its size.* | *None of the jewels were of any size.* (=they were quite small) | *You should see the size of their dog!* (=it's very big) **3** [C] any of a set of standard measures according to which goods are produced: *We stock dresses in women's and children's sizes.* | *I take a size 8 shoe.* | *What size bottle would you like? The small size is 55p and the large size is 85p.* **4 size isn't important** a phrase people sometimes use jokingly, thinking of a well-known piece of advice to men who are worried about the size of their PENIS. Or they may also say something like **you know what they say about size**... **5 that's about the size of it** *infml* that's a fair statement

of the matter **6 -sized** /saɪzd/ also **-size**– of the stated size or number: *a medium-sized car | bite-size chunks | a good-sized* (=large) *crowd* –see also **cut someone down to size** (CUT **down**), **try something for size** (TRY[1])

size[2] *v* **1** to make (an object) a certain size **2** to SORT things out according to their size **3** to establish the size of: *Those apples have not been sized yet.*

size sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to consider and form an opinion or judgment about: *He sized the situation up at a glance and took immediate action.*

size[3] *n* [U] a thick liquid mixture made from glue, flour and other materials, used for giving stiffness and a hard shiny surface to paper, cloth, etc.

size[4] *v* [T] to cover or treat with SIZE[3]

size·a·ble, sizable /ˈsaɪzəbəl/ *adj* rather large; CONSIDERABLE: *a sizeable income*

Size·well /ˈsaɪzwəl/ a NUCLEAR power station in Suffolk, England

siz·zle /ˈsɪzəl/ *v* [I] to make a sound like water falling on hot metal or food cooking in hot fat: *The meat was sizzling in the pan.* –**sizzle** *n* [U]

siz·zler /ˈsɪzələr/ *n infml* a very hot day: *Yesterday was a real sizzler!*

SJ *abbrev. for:* (after the name of a Jesuit) Society of Jesus: *Francis Xavier, SJ*

ska /skɑː/ *n* [U] a kind of popular music from the West Indies, similar to REGGAE

skag, scag /skæg/ *n* [U] *sl for* HEROIN

skate[1] /skeɪt/ *n* **1** also **ice skate**– either of a pair of boots with metal blades fitted to the bottom, allowing the wearer to move quickly on ice **2** a ROLLER SKATE –see picture at ROLL **3 get/put one's skates on** *infml* to move, act, or work quickly; hurry

skate[2] *v* [I] **1** to move on skates: *We skated across the frozen lake. | I'm going skating.* **2 (skate) on thin ice** *infml* (to be) doing something risky –~**er** *n*

skate over/round sthg. *phr v* [T] to avoid treating seriously; fail to give necessary attention to: *Instead of trying to solve the problems, the committee skated over them.*

skate through (sthg.) *phr v* [I;T] *infml* to gain easy success (in): *She skated through her English exam.*

skate[3] *n* **skate** *or* **skates** a large flat sea fish that can be eaten

skate·board /ˈskeɪtbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* a short board with two small wheels at each end, for standing on and riding – compare ROLLER SKATE –~**er** *n* –~**ing** *n* [U]

ske·dad·dle /skɪˈdædl/ *v* [I] *infml humor* to run away

skeet shoo·ting /ˈskiːt ˌʃuːtɪŋ/ *n* [U] the sport of shooting at clay objects thrown into the air to give the effect of flying birds

Skeg·ness /ˌskegˈnes◂/ also **Skeg·gy** /ˈskegi/ *infml*– a town on the E coast of England which is a popular place esp. for WORKING-CLASS people from central England to go for the day or for their holidays

skein /skeɪn/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a loosely wound length of thread or YARN **2** a large group of wild GEESE flying in the sky

skel·e·tal /ˈskelɪtəl/ *adj* of or like a skeleton: *the skeletal bodies of the starving people* | (fig.) *a skeletal report* (=giving only the main points, and not providing details)

skel·e·ton[1] /ˈskelɪtən/ *n* **1** the structure consisting of all the bones in a human or animal body **2** a set of these bones (or models of them) held in their positions, e.g. for use by medical students **3** [(**of**)] something forming a structure on which more is built or added: *the steel skeleton of a new skyscraper | I've written the skeleton of my report, but I have to fill in the details.* **4** an extremely thin person or animal: *The poor old man was just a skeleton.* **5** *infml* an unpleasant often shocking event or fact from the past that a person or family keeps secret (esp. in the phrase **skeleton in the closet/cupboard** (*BrE*))

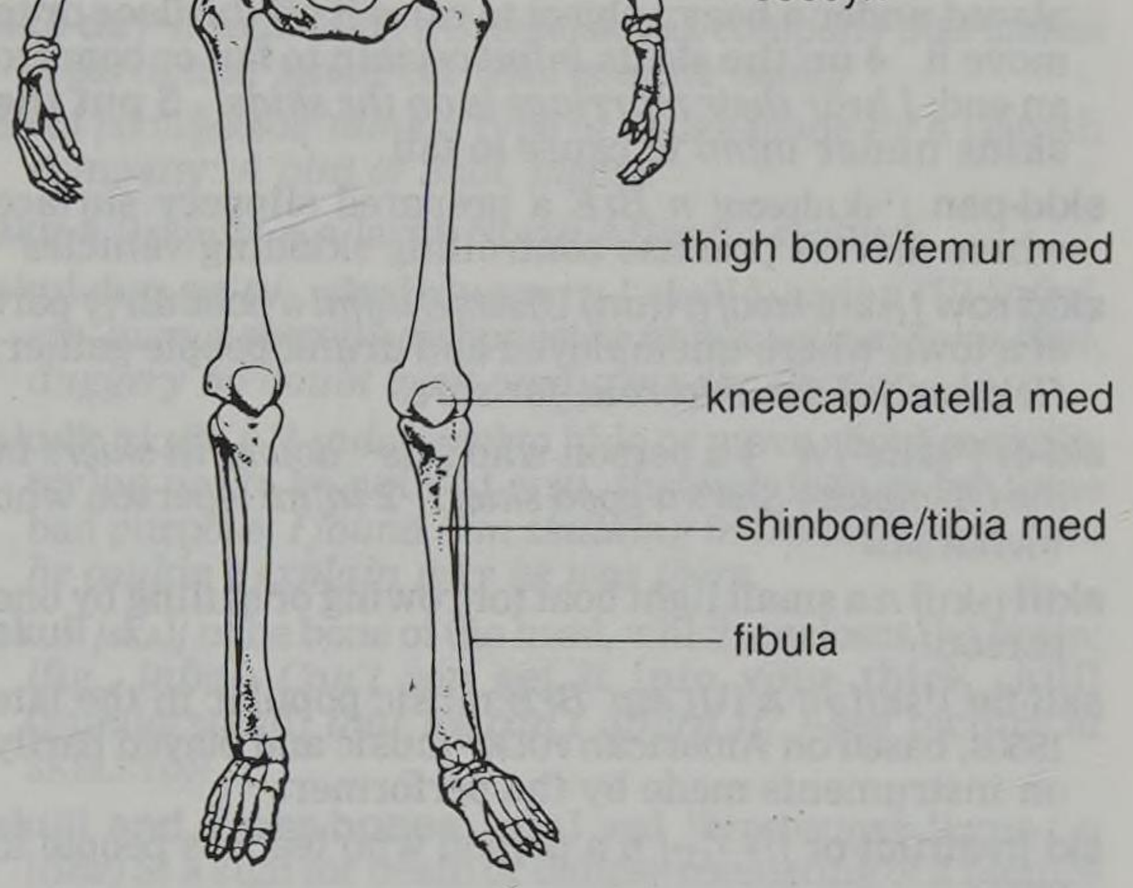
skeleton[2] *adj* [A] enough to keep an operation or organization going, and no more: *During the strike British Rail is providing only a skeleton service, with five trains a day. | a skeleton staff*

skeleton key /ˈ··· ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **master key** *AmE*–a key made to open a number of different locks **2** *AmE* an old-fashioned key

skep·tic /ˈskeptɪk/ *n AmE for* SCEPTIC –~**al** *adj* –~**ally** /kli/ *adv* –**ism** /ˈskeptɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U]

sketch[1] /sketʃ/ *n* **1** a simple, quickly-made, and not detailed drawing: *Rembrandt's sketches for his paintings | a pencil/charcoal sketch* **2** a short written or spoken description: *On the back of the book there is a brief biographical sketch of the author.* **3** a short humorous scene on stage, television, etc., that is part of a larger show: *The next sketch features a man going into a pet shop to complain about his dead parrot.*

the human skeleton



sketch[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to draw a sketch (of) **2** [T (IN, OUT)] to describe roughly with few details: *Let me just sketch in/out the main points of our plan.* –~**er** *n*

sketch·book /ˈsketʃbʊk/ *n* a book containing quick drawings or plain paper for making quick drawings: *Shall I show you what I did in my sketchbook today?*

sketch·pad /ˈsketʃpæd/ also **sketchbook**– *n* a number of sheets of paper fastened together for drawing on

sketch·y /ˈsketʃi/ *adj often derog* not thorough or complete; lacking details: *My memory of what happened is rather sketchy. | rather sketchy coverage of an important news story* –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

skew[1] /skjuː/ *v* [T] to cause to be not straight or exact; twist; DISTORT: *A few inaccurate figures could skew the results of the survey.*

skew[2] *n* **on the skew** not straight; sloping or twisted; ASKEW

skew·bald /ˈskjuːbɔːld/ *n, adj* (a horse) coloured with large white and esp. brown shapes –compare PIEBALD

skew·er[1] /ˈskjuːər/ *n* a long metal or wooden pin for putting through (pieces of) meat while cooking, used e.g. to make KEBABS

skewer[2] *v* [T] to fasten or make a hole through (as if) with a skewer: *Skewer the chicken before you cook it.*

skew-whiff /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [F] *BrE infml, usu. humor* not straight; skewed: *She came in out of the wind with her hat rather skew-whiff.*

ski[1] /skiː/ *n* **skis** **1** either of a pair of long thin narrow pieces of wood, plastic, or metal curving up in front, that

are fastened to boots and used for travelling on snow **2** a RUNNER (3) shaped like a ski on a small motor vehicle, skibob, or SKI PLANE

ski[2] *v* **skied** /skiːd/, *present participle* **skiing** [I] to go on skis for sport or as a means of travel: *I'm learning to ski.* | *We skied down the hill.* | *They always* **go skiing** *in January.* —see also SKIER, SKI LIFT, SKI POLE, SKI RUN, WATER SKIING and see colour picture on page 1212

►CULTURAL NOTE Skiing holidays are now very popular in Britain, esp. among young people. There are three main areas in Scotland where British people ski —the Cairngorms, Glencoe, and Glenshee. Otherwise, they go abroad, esp. to France, Austria, or Switzerland. The US has several well-known ski areas, e.g. in the Rocky Mountains, Vermont, and the Grand Tetons.◄

ski·bob /ˈskiːbɒb‖-bɑːb/ *n* a bicycle-like vehicle with skis instead of wheels

ski boot /ˈ· ·/ *n* a specially made boot fastened to the foot and locked into position on a ski —see PAIR (USAGE) and see picture at SHOE

skid[1] /skɪd/ *v* **-dd-** [I] (of a vehicle or wheel) to slip or slide sideways, esp. uncontrollably: *If the road's icy it's easy to skid.* | *He came skidding round the corner on his motorbike.*

skid[2] *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] an act or path of skidding: *I put the brakes on and the car* **went into a skid.** (=started skidding) | *There were skid marks on the road where the van had crashed.* **2** a bladelike part which in some aircraft is used in addition to wheels for landing on: *helicopter skids* **3** [*usu. pl.*] also **pallet** *AmE*— a piece of usu. wood placed under a heavy object to raise it off the floor or to move it **4 on the skids** *infml* certain to fail or come to an end: *I hear their marriage is on the skids.* **5 put the skids under** *infml* to cause to fail

skid·pan /ˈskɪdpæn/ *n BrE* a prepared slippery surface where drivers practise controlling skidding vehicles

skid row /ˌskɪd ˈrəʊ/ *n* [(**on**) U] *AmE infml* a poor dirty part of a town where unemployed and drunk people gather: *He's headed for skid row, for sure.*

ski·er /ˈskiːəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who SKIS[2]: *downhill skiers in the Olympics* | *She's a good skier.* **2** *infml* a person who WATER SKIS

skiff /skɪf/ *n* a small light boat for rowing or sailing by one person

skif·fle /ˈskɪfəl/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* music popular in the late 1950s, based on American FOLK[2] music and played partly on instruments made by the performers

ski in·struc·tor /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* a person who teaches people to SKI.

►CULTURAL NOTE The STEREOTYPE of a ski instructor is of a tall, good-looking man with an attractive SUNTAN who enjoys a lot of sexual attention from the women he teaches.◄

ski jump /ˈ· ·/ *n* (a competition for jumping on SKIS at high speed from) a steep downward slope ending in a cliff

skil·ful usu. **skillful** *AmE* /ˈskɪlfəl/ *adj* having or showing skill; ADEPT: *a skilful pianist|negotiator* | *her skilful handling of a delicate situation* —~**ly** *adv*

ski lift /ˈ· ·/ *n* a power-driven endless wire rope with seats for carrying people to the top of a slope to SKI

skill /skɪl/ *n* [C;U] (a) special ability to do something well, esp. as gained by learning and practice: *Reading and writing are two different skills.* | *a course that teaches basic computer skills|management skills* | *He handled the negotiations with great skill.* | *a painter of great skill*

skill·cen·tre /ˈskɪlsentəʳ/ *n* a government training centre for young people in Britain, to help them find jobs

skilled /skɪld/ *adj* [(**in, at**)] having or needing skill: *We need skilled workers|workers skilled in welding for this job; it's a highly skilled job.* —opposite **unskilled**

skil·let /ˈskɪlɪt/ *n AmE for* FRYING PAN —see picture at PAN

skim /skɪm/ *v* **-mm- 1** [T (OFF, **from**)] to remove (floating fat or solids) from the surface of a liquid: *She skimmed (off) the cream from the milk.* | (fig.) *Does private education skim off all the best students from the state system?* **2** [I (**through, over**);T] to read quickly to get the main ideas: *I've skimmed (through) the report but I haven't had time to look at it in detail.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*;T] to (cause to) move quickly along a course near or touching (a surface): *Birds skimmed (over) the waves looking for food.* | *The plane skimmed the treetops.* | *He was idly skimming flat stones across the surface of the pond.* —~**mer** *n*

skimmed milk /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **skim milk**— *n* [U] milk from which the cream has been removed

►CULTURAL NOTE Many more people buy skimmed milk or semi-skimmed milk now than in the past because full cream milk contains more fat, which is supposed not to be very good for one's health.◄

skimp /skɪmp/ *v* [I (**on**);T] to spend, provide, or use less of (something) than is really needed: *When you make this dish, don't skimp (on) the cream.* (=use lots of it)

skimp·y /ˈskɪmpi/ *adj* that has been skimped on; not enough; SCANTY: *It was a skimpy meal, with hardly enough for everyone.* | *a skimpy dress* (=very short and/or tight) | *skimpy evidence* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

skin[1] /skɪn/ *n* **1** [U] **a** the natural outer covering of an animal or human body, from which hair may grow: *Babies have soft skin.* | *a skin disease* | *I was out in the thunderstorm, and I got absolutely* **soaked to the skin.** (=extremely wet) | (fig.) *He won't worry about the criticism; he's got a pretty* **thick skin.** (=is not easily upset) **b** the skin on one's face: *My skin's very bad at the moment.* (=my face is very dry or esp. very SPOTTY) | *skin problems* —see also SKINCARE, THIN-SKINNED **2** [C;U] (*sometimes in comb.*) the skin of an animal for use as leather, fur, etc.: *It takes a lot of skins to make a fur coat.* | *a sheepskin jacket* **3** [C] **a** a natural outer covering of some fruits and vegetables: *banana skins* | *onion skins* —see picture at FRUIT **b** the outer covering of a SAUSAGE **4** [C;U] the solid surface that forms over a liquid when it gets cool or is left in the air: *Do you like skin on your rice pudding?* **5** [C] *tech* an outer surface built over a structure: *Aircraft wings have metal or cloth skins.* **6 by the skin of one's teeth** *infml* only just; with very little additional time or space: *We had to run for the train, and caught it by the skin of our teeth.* **7 get under someone's skin** *infml* to annoy or excite someone deeply **8 no skin off someone's nose** *infml* not something that upsets or causes disadvantage to someone: *If she won't accept my help that's her problem – it's no skin off my nose.* **9 skin and bone(s)** *infml* very thin: *The poor little dog was all skin and bone.* **10 under the skin** beneath the outside appearance; at heart: *We may be of different races but we're sisters under the skin.* **11 -skinned** /skɪnd/having the stated type or colour of skin: *smooth-skinned* | *fair-skinned* —see also THICK-SKINNED, THIN-SKINNED, **save one's skin** (SAVE[1])

skin[2] *v* **-nn-** [T] **1** to remove the skin from: *to skin a deer|an onion* | (fig., *infml*) *He'll* **skin you alive** (=punish you very severely) *if he finds out what you've done.* **2** to hurt by rubbing off some skin: *I skinned my knee when I fell.* —see also **keep one's eyes skinned** (EYE[1]) **3 there's more than one way to skin a cat** *infml* there are more ways or methods of getting something done. This phrase, often changed, is usu. used to suggest that there is a different, possibly illegal, way of doing something when the usual method is not possible: *He won't move out of the house, and the lawyers can't help, but there's more than one way of skinning a cat!*

skin·care /ˈskɪnkeəʳ/ *adj, n* [U] (the act of) looking after one's skin, esp. the skin of a woman's face: *our new range of skincare products*

skin-deep /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [F] not going deep; only on the surface; SUPERFICIAL: *Their differences of opinion are only skin-deep; they basically share the same beliefs.*

skin-dive /ˈ· ·/ *v* [I] to swim under water without heavy breathing apparatus and not wearing a protective suit: *We're going skin-diving to look at the coral reef.* —**skin diver** *n* —**skin diving** *n* [U]

skin flick /ˈ· ·/ *n sl* a film showing a lot of sex

skin·flint /ˈskɪnˌflɪnt/ *n derog* someone who dislikes spending or giving money; MISER

skin·ful /ˈskɪnfʊl/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* an amount of alcohol to make one drunk: *He must have had a skinful; he can hardly walk in a straight line!*

skin graft /ˈ· ·/ *n* an operation to repair a burn, wound, etc., by taking a piece of healthy skin to put in place of the damaged skin

skin·head /ˈskɪnhed/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a young person, usu. male, with hair that is shaved off (SHAVE[1]) or cut very

short, esp. one of a group that sometimes behaves violently. Male skinheads often wear heavy boots such as Doc Martens, BRACES, and an EARRING in one ear: *A gang of skinheads terrorized the holidaymakers.*

skin·less /ˈskɪnləs/ *adj* not having a skin, esp. a SKIN[1] (3)

Skin·ner /ˈskɪnəʳ/, **Bur·rhus Fred·e·ric** /ˈbʌrəs ˈfredərɪk ‖ˈbɜː-/ (1904–90) a US PSYCHOLOGIST whose work developed the ideas of BEHAVIOURISM. His books include *Beyond Freedom* and *Dignity*.

skin·ny /ˈskɪni/ *adj infml, often derog* very thin, esp. in a way that is unattractive –see THIN (USAGE)

skinny-dip·ping /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* swimming with no clothes on. This is chiefly enjoyed by young people, esp. when done at night or in secret. –**-dipper** *n*

skint /skɪnt/ *adj* [F] *BrE infml* completely without money; BROKE

skin-tight /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of clothes) fitting tightly against the body: *skin-tight jeans | a skin-tight sweater*

skip[1] /skɪp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [I] to move in a light dancing way, with quick steps and jumps: *The little girl skipped along at her mother's side.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to move in no fixed order: *The speaker kept skipping from one subject to another. | Let's skip to the last item on the agenda, and we'll deal with these other matters later.* **3** [I (**over**);T] to pass over or leave out; not do or deal with (the next thing): *Every time the record comes to that part of the music, the needle skips. | His heart skipped a beat when he saw how high up he was. | She skipped (over) the boring bits of text and just looked at the pictures.* **4** [T] *infml* to fail to attend or take part in (an activity); intentionally miss: *I'm going to skip lunch today.* **5** [I] *BrE* ‖ **jump rope** *AmE–* to jump over a rope passed repeatedly beneath one's feet, as a game or for exercise –see also SKIPPING ROPE **6** [I (OFF, OUT); T] *infml* to leave hastily and secretly, esp. to avoid being punished or paying money: *She skipped off/out without paying her bill. | The thieves have skipped the country.*

skip[2] *n* a light quick stepping and jumping movement: *With a hop and a skip she was gone.*

skip[3] *BrE*‖**dumpster** *AmE–* *n* a large container for carrying heavy materials, esp. GARBAGE or old bricks, wood, etc., to be taken away

ski pants /ˈ· ·/ *n* [P] **1** special warm trousers with no opening around the ANKLES, worn for winter sports **2** fashionable tight trousers worn by women

ski plane /ˈ· ·/ *n* an aircraft with SKIS (2) instead of wheels, for landing on snow

ski pole /ˈ· ·/ also **ski stick** *BrE–* *n* either of a pair of pointed short poles held for balance and for pushing against the snow when wearing SKIS

skip·per[1] /ˈskɪpəʳ/ *n infml* a captain of a ship or a sports team: *Tell the skipper. | "What next, skipper?"*

skipper[2] *v* [T] *infml* to be the skipper of; lead

skipping rope /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *BrE*‖**jump rope** *AmE–* *n* a piece of rope several metres long, usu. with handles, over which people SKIP[1](5). It is used esp. by young girls and by people doing exercises to keep fit.

skirl /skɜːl‖skɜːrl/ *n* [(*the*) S (**of**)] *esp. lit* a loud high sound as made by BAGPIPES

skir·mish[1] /ˈskɜːmɪʃ‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **1** a fight between small groups of soldiers, ships, etc., at a distance from the main forces and not part of a large battle **2** a short or unplanned exchange of arguments between opponents – compare PITCHED BATTLE

skirmish[2] *v* [I (**with**)] to fight in a skirmish –~**er** *n*

skirt[1] /skɜːt‖skɜːrt/ *n* **1** [C] a woman's outer garment that hangs down freely from the waist: *Skirts were worn* (=came down to) *just below the knee at that time. | a pleated skirt* –compare DRESS[2] (1) **2** [C] also **skirts** *pl.*– a circular guarding or covering part of a vehicle or machine: *a hovercraft's rubber skirts* **3** [U] *old-fash sl* girls or women considered as sexual objects: *a nice* **bit of skirt** (=woman)

skirt[2] *v* [I+**round, around**;T] **1** to be or go round the outside of; go around: *The old footpath skirts the village. | We decided to skirt (round) the town centre.* **2** to avoid (a difficult question or subject that ought to be dealt with): *The speech was most disappointing; it skirted round all the main questions.*

skirting board /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **baseboard** *AmE–* *n* [C;U] (a) board fixed along the base of a wall where it meets the floor of a room –see picture at LIVING ROOM

ski run /ˈ· ·/ *n* a track marked out on a slope for skiing (SKI) on

skit /skɪt/ *n* [(**on**)] a short usu. humorous acted-out scene, often copying and making fun of something: *They did* (=performed) *a skit on beauty contests – it was hilarious.*

skit·ter /ˈskɪtəʳ/ *v* [I] (of a small creature) to run quickly and lightly

skit·tish /ˈskɪtɪʃ/ *adj* **1** not serious or responsible; silly and changeable in mind; FRIVOLOUS: *a charming but skittish young woman* **2** (esp. of a horse or cat) easily excited and made afraid –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

skit·tle /ˈskɪtl/ *n* **1** a bottle-shaped object used in the game of skittles **2** *BrE infml for* a PIN[1] (5)

skit·tles /ˈskɪtlz/ *n* [U] a British game in which a player tries to knock down skittles by throwing or rolling a ball or other object at them –see also **not all beer and skittles** (BEER)

skive /skaɪv/ *v* [I (OFF)] *BrE infml* to avoid work or duty or leave it early without permission –**skiver** *n*

skiv·vies /ˈskɪviz/ *n* [P] *AmE infml* a man's undergarments, esp. a VEST[1] (1) and UNDERPANTS

skiv·vy[1] /ˈskɪvi/ *n BrE derog* a servant, esp. a girl, who does only the dirty unpleasant jobs in a house

skivvy[2] *v* [I] *BrE infml* (esp. of a woman) to do the dirty unpleasant jobs in a house: *I don't see why I should spend my time skivvying for you.*

Sko·da /ˈskəʊdə/ *tdmk* a Czechoslovak company that makes a particular small car that is quite cheap

Skol /skɒl‖skəʊl/ *tdmk* a type of LAGER made by a Danish company: *A pint of Skol, please.*

sku·a /ˈskjuːə/ *n* a large North Atlantic seabird

skul·dug·ge·ry , skullduggery /ˌskʌlˈdʌgəri/ *n* [U] *infml, esp. humor* secretly dishonest or unfair action: *Some skulduggery no doubt went on during the election.*

skulk /skʌlk/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to hide or move about secretly, trying not to be noticed, usu. through fear or for some bad purpose: *I found him skulking in the cupboard, and he couldn't explain why he was there.*

skull /skʌl/ *n* the bone of the head, which encloses the brain: (fig., *infml*) *Can't you* **get it into your thick skull** (=understand) *that we can't afford it?* –see picture at SKELETON

skull and cross·bones /ˌskʌl ənd ˈkrɒsbəʊnz‖-ˈkrɔːs-/ *n* [(*the*) S] a sign for death or danger consisting of a picture of a skull with two long bones crossed below it, used esp. **a** on bottles containing poison **b** on PIRATES' flags in former times

skull·cap /ˈskʌlkæp/ *n* a simple closefitting cap for the top of the head, as worn sometimes by some priests, and Jewish men, esp. when they are in the holy places of their religion

skunk /skʌŋk/ *n* **1** a small black and white N American animal which gives out a powerful bad-smelling liquid as a defence when attacked **2** *infml, usu. humor* a person who is bad, unfair, unkind, etc.

sky[1] /skaɪ/ *n* **1** [(*the*) S;U] also **skies** *pl.*– the upper air; the space above the Earth where clouds and the sun, moon, and stars appear: *The sky turned dark as the storm came near. | There's a bit of blue sky between the clouds. | The skies were grey when we arrived in London. | The rocket shot up into the sky.* –compare HEAVEN **2 Red sky at night, shepherd's/sailor's delight** *quote* the first line of an old poem for children, meaning that the weather will be good the next day if the sky is red at night. The poem finishes **Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning/sailors take warning**, meaning that the weather will be very bad after a red sky in the morning. **3 the sky's the limit** *infml* there is no upper limit, esp. to the amount of money that can be spent –see also **gone to the great ... in the sky** (GREAT), **pie in the sky** (PIE), **praise someone/something to the skies** (PRAISE[1])

sky[2] *v* [T] (in cricket) to hit (a ball) high into the air

Sky see SKY TV

sky-blue /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* of the pleasant bright blue colour of a clear sunny sky –**sky blue** *n* [U]

sky·cap /ˈskaɪkæp/ *n AmE* a person who carries passengers' cases at an airport

sky·div·ing /ˈskaɪˌdaɪvɪŋ/ *n* [U] the sport of jumping from an aircraft and making movements while falling before opening a PARACHUTE —**-diver** *n*

Skye /skaɪ/ an island off the NW coast of Scotland. It is the largest island of the INNER HEBRIDES, and is famous esp. because of an old popular song *Over the sea to Skye*. It is mainly mountainous and is regarded as a very beautiful and ROMANTIC place. —see colour map on page 818

sky·er /ˈskaɪəʳ/ *n* (in cricket) a ball hit high into the air

sky-high /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adv, adj infml* very high, esp. unacceptably high; at or to a very high level: *Prices have gone sky-high.* | *sky-high interest rates* —see also **blow something sky-high** (BLOW¹ (18))

sky·jack /ˈskaɪdʒæk/ *v* [T] to HIJACK (an aircraft) —**~er** *n* —**~ing** *n* [C;U]

Sky·lab /ˈskaɪlæb/ the first American space station, in 1973. ASTRONAUTS were sent up to do scientific tests and other work in space. The space station burnt up in 1979 when it came back into the Earth's ATMOSPHERE.

sky·lark¹ /ˈskaɪlɑːk‖-lɑːrk/ *n* a small bird (LARK) that sings while flying upwards

skylark² *v* [I (ABOUT)] *old-fash infml* to play rather wildly; have fun; LARK **about**

sky·light /ˈskaɪlaɪt/ *n* a glass-covered opening in a roof to let in light —see picture at HOUSE

sky·line /ˈskaɪlaɪn/ *n* a shape or view made by scenery, esp. tall city buildings, against the background of the sky: *the dramatic New York skyline*

sky·rock·et¹ /ˈskaɪˌrɒkɪt‖-ˌrɑː-/ *v* [I] *infml* (esp. of a price, amount, etc.) to go up suddenly and steeply

sky·rock·et² *n* a ROCKET¹ (3)

sky·scrap·er /ˈskaɪˌskreɪpəʳ/ *n* a very tall modern city building

Sky TV /ˌskaɪ tiː ˈviː/ also **Sky Tel·e·vi·sion** /ˌ· ··ˈ··/ (in Britain) a number of television CHANNELS broadcast from Europe and received at one's house by a SATELLITE DISH. For example, there is a news channel, a sport channel, and a MOVIE channel. Sky TV began in 1989 and in November 1990 joined with British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) to form British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB).

Sky·walk·er /ˈskaɪwɔːlkəʳ/, **Luke** the HERO (=the main good character) in the Star Wars films, who fought against and defeated the evil Darth Vader —see also DARTH VADER, STAR WARS and see colour picture on page 685

sky·writ·ing /ˈskaɪraɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] the act of using special smoke released from an aircraft to write words in the sky: *Skywriting is often used by advertisers to reach people at the beaches during the summer.*

slab /slæb/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a thick flat usu. four-sided piece (of stone, metal, wood, food, etc.): *The patio was made of stone slabs.* | *a slab of cake* —see picture at PIECE **2** [*the*+S] *infml* the table top, often made of stone, on which a dead body is laid in a hospital or MORTUARY

slack¹ /slæk/ *adj* **1** (of a rope, wire, etc.) not pulled tight —opposite **taut** **2** not firm in keeping control; LAX: *slack discipline|supervision* **3** not busy or active; SLUGGISH: *Winter is the slack season at most hotels.* | *Business is slack just now.* **4** not taking proper care or effort; NEGLIGENT: *You've been very slack in your work recently.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

slack² *v* [I] *derog* to be lazy; not work well or quickly enough: *Stop slacking and get on with your work.* —**~er** *n*

slack off/up *phr v* [I] to reduce speed, effort, or tightness; slacken: *It's natural to slack off towards the end of a hard day's work.*

slack³ *n* [U] the part of a rope, wire, etc., that hangs loose: *The sailors pulled at the rope to* **take up the slack.** (=make it tighter)

slack⁴ *n* [U] coal in very small pieces

slack·en /ˈslækən/ *v* [I;T (OFF)] to make or become slack; reduce in activity, force, etc., or in tightness: *The train slackened speed|Our speed slackened as we approached the station.* | *The demand for coal begins to slacken (off) in the spring.* | *Slacken the tent ropes before it rains.* —compare TIGHTEN

slacks /slæks/ *n* [P] **1** *infml, esp. AmE* trousers: *a shirt and slacks* | *dress|corduroy slacks* —see PAIR (USAGE)

▷ USAGE **Slacks** is used in American English, esp. in speech, where British people usu. use **trousers**. For most American speakers the difference between **jeans** and **slacks** is that **jeans** have the back pockets sewn on, and **slacks** have back pockets on the inside. **Slacks** are suitable for more formal occasions than **jeans**.◁

2 *BrE old-fash* a woman's trousers for informal wear

slag¹ /slæg/ *n* **1** [U] lighter glasslike waste material left when metal is separated from its natural rock **2** [C] *BrE derog sl* a woman or girl whose sexual behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, e.g. because she has had sexual relationships with too many men, or with a man whom she hardly knew

slag² *v* **-gg-**

slag sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *BrE sl* to make extremely unfavourable remarks about; CRITICIZE: *He claims to like her, but he's always slagging her off behind her back.*

slag·heap /ˈslæghiːp/ *n esp. BrE* a pile of slag at a mine, factory, etc.

slain /sleɪn/ *past participle of* SLAY

slake /sleɪk/ *v* [T] *lit* to satisfy (thirst) with a drink; QUENCH

sla·lom /ˈslɑːləm/ *n* a race for people on SKIS or in CANOES down a winding course marked out by flags

slam¹ /slæm/ *v* **-mm-** **1** [I;T] to shut loudly and with force: *He stormed out, and the door slammed (shut) behind him.* | *Please don't slam the door.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] *infml* to push, move, place, etc., hurriedly and with great force: *She slammed on the brakes* (=worked them very quickly and strongly) *and the car came to a stop.* | *He slammed the papers down on my desk and angrily walked out.* **3** [T] (used in newspapers) to attack with words: *The paper's headline was "Minister slams Local Government spending".* **4 slam the door (in someone's face|on someone)** to refuse rudely to meet someone, accept an offer, etc.: *We offered to negotiate, but they slammed the door in our face(s).*

slam² *n* [S] the act or loud noise of a door closing violently —see also GRAND SLAM

slam dunk /ˈ· ·/ *v* [I;T] (in BASKETBALL) to DUNK (3) (throw) a ball through the basket using a lot of force: *And Abdul-Jabbar runs down the floor and slam dunks!* —**slam dunk** *n* : *a pass to Jordan for a slam dunk*

slam·mer /ˈslæməʳ/ *n sl* a prison: *He was thrown in the slammer.*

slan·der¹ /ˈslɑːndəʳ‖ˈslæn-/ *n* **1** [C] an intentional false spoken report, story, etc., which unfairly damages the good opinion held about a person by others **2** [U] the making of such a statement, esp. as an offence in law: *The company is suing her for slander because of her remarks about their safety record.* —compare LIBEL

slander² *v* [T] to speak slander against; harm by making a false statement: *He claims he was slandered at the meeting.* —**~er** *n*

slan·der·ous /ˈslɑːndərəs‖ˈslæn-/ *adj* being or containing slander: *a slanderous allegation* —**~ly** *adv*

slang¹ /slæŋ/ *n* [U] very informal language that includes new and sometimes not polite words and meanings, is often used among particular groups of people, and is usu. not used in serious speech or writing. Slang words and phrases are marked *sl* in this dictionary: *schoolboy|prison slang* | *"Slag off" is British slang for|is a slang expression for "criticize".* —see also RHYMING SLANG —**~y** *adj derog* : *Don't use such slangy expressions in your essays.*

slang² *v* [T] *BrE infml* to attack with rude angry words: *After the accident the two drivers started slanging each other|started a* **slanging match** *in the middle of the road.*

slant¹ /slɑːnt‖slænt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to be or put at an angle, instead of being straight up and down or HORIZONTAL; (cause to) slope: *slanting handwriting* | *a slanting roof* | *The sunlight slanted through the trees.* **2** [T *usu. pass.*] *usu. derog* to express or describe (facts, events, etc.) in a way favourable to a particular opinion: *The newspaper report was slanted towards|in favour of the unions.* —**~ingly** *adv*

slant² *n* **1** [S] a slanting direction or position: *a steep slant* | *The lines are drawn* **at|on a slant.** **2** [C (**on**)] *sometimes derog* a particular way of looking at or expressing facts or a situation: *Reading the reports in foreign newspapers gives you an interesting new slant on the*

election. | *The editorial had an anti-union slant.*

slant·wise /ˈslɑːnt-waɪz‖ˈslænt-/ *adj, adv* at a slant; in a slanting direction

slap[1] /slæp/ *n* **1** a quick hit with the flat part of the hand: *He gave her a slap on the cheek.* **2 slap in the face** *infml* an action that seems to be aimed directly and intentionally against someone else; REBUFF: *It was a slap in the face for her parents when she ignored their advice and gave up her job.* **3 slap on the back** *infml* an expression of praise or thanks for something done; CONGRATULATIONS **4 slap on the wrist** *infml* a gentle (perhaps too gentle) punishment or warning: *The law ought to be tougher; we shouldn't just give criminals a slap on the wrist!*

slap[2] *v* **-pp-** **1** [T] to hit quickly with the flat part of the hand: *She slapped her little boy for being rude.* | *If you touch me again I'll slap your face!* **2** [I+*prep*;T] to move against (a surface) with a sound like a slap: *The small waves slapped against the jetty.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **on**] to place or put quickly, roughly, or carelessly: *He slapped the document down on the desk.* | *She slapped the paint thickly on the wall.* | *The council has slapped a demolition order on the old building.*

▷USAGE Compare **slap, smack,** and **punch. Slap** and **smack** are both used about hitting someone with an open hand. **Slap** is usually used about hitting someone across the face: *She* **slapped** *his face.* **Smack** is used especially about hitting children: *Be quiet or I'll* **smack** *you!* | *I'll* **smack** *your bottom if you don't behave.* **Punch** is used about hitting someone or something with a closed hand: *A boxer tries to* **punch** *his opponent.* It is generally believed that women tend to **slap** and men tend to **punch**.◁

slap sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] *infml* to force into silence or inactivity, esp. rudely or unfairly, because of disapproval, annoyance, etc.: *When I try to make intelligent contributions at meetings, the chairman always slaps me down.*

slap[3] also **slap-bang** /ˌ· ˈ·/– *adv* [+*prep*] *infml* directly; right; SMACK[3] (2): *The car ran slap into a tree.* | *The crisis blew up slap-bang in the middle of my holiday, and I had to return home.*

slap and tick·le /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] *BrE old-fash infml, humor* playful lovemaking: *We were having a bit of slap and tickle in the back row of the cinema.*

slap·dash /ˈslæpdæʃ/ *adj* done, made, etc., in a hasty careless way: *very slapdash workmanship* | *She's very slapdash with her work.*

slap·hap·py /ˈslæpˌhæpi/ *adj infml* cheerfully slapdash or irresponsible

slap·stick /ˈslæpˌstɪk/ *n* [U] humorous acting (COMEDY) that depends on rather violent fast action and simple jokes. A typical slapstick scene might include someone being hit in the face with a CUSTARD PIE or people accidentally running into one another or hitting one another

slap-up /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *BrE infml* (esp. of food) excellent and in large quantities: *He promised us a slap-up meal at the best restaurant in town.*

slash[1] /slæʃ/ *v* **1** [I (**at**);T] to cut with long sweeping violent strokes, using a sword, knife, or sharp tool: *She slashed at the bushes with a stick.* | *He tried to commit suicide by slashing his wrists.* | *Some vandals had slashed the seat covers on the train.* | *We slashed our way through the dense vegetation.* | (fig.) *The paper has made a slashing* (=very fierce) *attack on the government.* **2** [T *usu. pass.*] *infml* to reduce (an amount, price, etc.) very greatly: *"This week only: prices slashed!"* (shop advertisement) | *The new president slashed the defence budget by almost 30%.* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*] (esp. of rain) to come hard down and across: *The rain slashed against the window.* **4** [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] to cut (a piece of clothing) in order to sew in or show a different colour in the opening

slash[2] *n* **1** [C] a long sweeping cut or blow **2** [C] a straight cut making an opening in a piece of clothing **3** [S] *BrE infml, not polite* an act of passing water from the body; used mostly by men: *I'm just going to have a slash.* **4** [C] also **slash mark** /ˈ· ·/– an OBLIQUE[2]: *"7/2" can be read as "seven slash two".*

slash and burn /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *adj* characterized by the cutting down and burning of trees and bushes to make land available for crops: *slash and burn agriculture*

slat /slæt/ *n* a thin narrow flat piece of wood, plastic, etc., esp. in furniture or VENETIAN BLINDS – ~**ted** *adj* : *a slatted bench*

slate[1] /sleɪt/ *n* **1** [U] a heavy usu. dark grey rock that can easily be split into flat thin pieces **2** [C] a small piece of slate or other material used for laying in rows to cover a roof: *Several slates blew off during the storm.* **3** [C] a small board made of slate or wood, used esp. formerly for writing on with chalk **4** [*the*+S] *infml BrE* a record of things bought but not yet paid for: *Two whiskies, please; and could you put them* **on the slate?** (=I will pay for them at a later date) **5** [C] an imaginary record of the past, esp. of mistakes, faults, disagreements, etc.: *Let's* **wipe the slate clean** *and forget our past quarrels.* | *You're all beginning here* **with clean slates** (=having done no wrong); *make sure you keep it that way.* **6** [C] *AmE* a list of people, esp. those of the same party, who are CANDIDATES in an election

slate[2] *v* [T] **1** to cover (a roof) with slates **2** [+*obj*+**for**/*to-v usu. pass.*] *esp. AmE* **a** to choose for a position or job: *She's slated to be the next chairman.* **b** to expect or plan to happen: *The meeting is slated to take place/slated for next week.*

slate[3] *v* [T] *BrE infml* to attack in words; severely CRITICIZE: *His latest play has been really slated by the critics.*

slat·tern /ˈslætən‖-ərn/ *n old-fash derog* a dirty untidy woman – ~**ly** *adj*

slat·y /ˈsleɪti/ *adj* like or containing slate: *a slaty grey colour*

slaugh·ter[1] /ˈslɔːtəʳ/ *n* [U] **1** the killing of many people or animals, esp. cruelly, wrongly, or in a battle; MASSACRE: *The battlefield was a scene of terrible slaughter.* **2** the killing of animals for meat: *The pigs are fattened until they're ready for slaughter.*

slaughter[2] *v* [T] **1** to kill (esp. many people) cruelly or wrongly; MASSACRE: *Thousands of people are needlessly slaughtered each year in road accidents.* **2** to kill (an animal) for food **3** *infml* to defeat severely in a game – see KILL (USAGE)

slaugh·ter·house /ˈslɔːtəhaʊs‖-ər-/ also **abattoir** *BrE*– *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ a building where animals are killed for meat

Slav /slɑːv‖slɑːv, slæv/ *n, adj* (a member) of any of the East European peoples speaking Slavic languages

slave[1] /sleɪv/ *n* **1** a person who is legally owned by someone else; servant without personal freedom who is treated as a piece of property: *brutal and inhumane treatment of slaves* | *He treats his wife like a slave.* –compare SERF; see also ENSLAVE, WAGE SLAVE; see SLAVERY (CULTURAL NOTE) **2** [(**of, to**)] a person completely in the control of another person or thing: *We're all the slaves of habit.* | *He's a slave to drink.* **3 What did your last slave die of?** *infml humor* (used to someone who has just asked you to do something that you think they should do themselves)

slave[2] *v* [I (AWAY)] to work like a slave; work hard with little rest: *I slaved (away) all day over a hot stove to produce this meal, and now they've hardly eaten any of it.*

slave driv·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n infml derog* someone who makes people work very hard: *The boss is a real slave driver.*

slave la·bour /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] **1** slaves used for work: *The pyramids were largely built by slave labour.* **2** *humor* hard work done for little or no pay, or because one is forced to do it

slav·er[1] /ˈslævəʳ/ *v* [I] **1** to let liquid (SALIVA) come out of the mouth uncontrollably, because of excitement, hunger, etc.: *The dog was slavering.* **2** [(**over**)] *esp. infml, usu. derog* to be eager or excited, esp. in an offensively unpleasant way: *The papers pretend to disapprove of this scandal, while at the same time slavering over every salacious detail.*

slav·er[2] /ˈsleɪvəʳ/ *n old use* **1** a ship that carried slaves **2** a person in the business of selling slaves

sla·ve·ry /ˈsleɪvəri/ *n* [U] **1** the system of having slaves: *the abolition of slavery* **2** the condition of being a slave: *The prisoners were sold into slavery.* –see also WHITE SLAVERY

►CULTURAL NOTE The main associations of slavery for British and American people are with the SLAVE TRADE from the 17th to the 19th centuries and with the suffering of black slaves in the South of the US. Slavery was one of the causes of the American Civil War in 1861 and was finally

officially ended at the end of the Civil War with the victory of the northern states —see also ABOLITIONIST, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, CIVIL WAR, EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION, Abraham LINCOLN; see also SLAVE TRADE (CULTURAL NOTE)◄

slave state /ˈ· ·/ *n* any of the US states where slavery was permitted and practised before 1865 —see also SLAVERY (CULTURAL NOTE)

slave trade /ˈ· ·/ also **slave traf·fic** /ˈ· ˌ··/— [*the*] the business of buying and selling slaves, which is forbidden by law in all countries

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and the US this is thought of in connection with the forced carrying away of Africans as slaves in the 17th to 19th centuries. They were mostly taken to the colonies (COLONY) of European countries, and to America, esp. the South, where they worked on large farms. By the mid-nineteenth century the slave trade was no longer legal in many countries, but continued in the southern states of the US. —see also SLAVERY (CULTURAL NOTE)◄

Sla·vic /ˈslɑːvɪk, ˈslæ-/ also **Sla·von·ic** /slәˈvɒnɪk‖-ˈvɑː-/— *adj* of the East European people (Slavs) including Russians, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Yugoslavs, etc., or their languages

slav·ish /ˈsleɪvɪʃ/ *adj derog* **1** showing complete obedience to, dependence on, and willingness to work for others; slavelike: *Her slavish devotion to duty is unhealthy.* **2** copying or copied very closely or exactly from something else; not fresh or original: *It's a slavish translation, very faithful to the original but hardly understandable in English.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

slaw /slɔː/ *n AmE* COLESLAW

slay /sleɪ/ *v* **slew** /sluː/, **slain** /sleɪn/ [T] *lit or AmE* to kill violently; (*AmE*) *"Top businessman slain by terrorists"* (title of newspaper story) —see KILL (USAGE) —~**er** *n*

SLD /ˌes el ˈdiː/ [*the* + *sing./pl. v*] SOCIAL AND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

sleaze /sliːz/ *n* [C;U] *AmE infml* (a thing or person having) the quality of being sleazy: *I like her but her brother's a real sleaze.* | *There's lots of sleaze moving into this neighbourhood now.*

slea·zy /ˈsliːzi/ *adj derog* cheap, dirty, poor-looking, and often suggesting immorality; DISREPUTABLE: *They took me to a sleazy back-street hotel that could easily have been a brothel.* —**-ziness** *n* [U]

sled /sled/ *v* **-dd-** [I] *AmE* SLEDGE² —**sled** *n*

sledge¹ /sledʒ/ *n BrE*‖**sled** *AmE*— **1** a vehicle made for carrying people or goods over snow, having two long metal blades and sometimes pulled by dogs **2** a light frame or board, sometimes on metal blades, used for sliding over snow, esp. for sport —compare SLEIGH

sledge² *BrE*‖**sled, coast** *AmE*— *v* [I] to go or race down slopes on a sledge: *When it snows we* **go sledging.**

sledge·ham·mer /ˈsledʒˌhæmәr/ *n* a large heavy hammer for swinging with both hands to drive in posts, break stones, etc.

sleek¹ /sliːk/ *adj* **1** (esp. of hair or fur) smooth and shining (as if) from good health and care: *a sleek Siamese cat* **2** attractively neat in appearance, and without unnecessary decoration: *The new car's sleek lines* (=attractive shape) *should make it very popular* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sleek² *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cause (hair or fur) to be smooth and shining: *He sleeked down*/*back his hair with water before going out.*

sleep¹ /sliːp/ *n* **1** [U] the natural resting state of unconsciousness of the body: *Try to get eight hours' sleep a night.* | *I haven't had enough sleep lately.* | (fig.) *He says there might be trouble, but I'm not going to* **lose any sleep** (=become anxious) *over it.* **2** [S] an act or period of sleeping: *I had a short sleep after lunch.* | *She fell into a deep sleep.* **3 get to sleep** [*usu. in negatives*] to succeed in sleeping: *I couldn't get to sleep last night; I was too excited.* **4 go to sleep: a** to begin to sleep; fall asleep **b** *infml* (of an arm, leg, etc.) to become unable to feel, or begin to feel PINS AND NEEDLES **5 put to sleep** *euph* **a** to kill (a suffering animal) without cruelty **b** *infml* to make (a person) unconscious, esp. for an operation —see also ASLEEP, BEAUTY SLEEP

sleep² *v* **slept** /slept/ **1** [I] to rest in sleep: *He likes to sleep for an hour in the afternoon.* | *I didn't sleep very well last night.* | *I usually* **sleep late** *on Sundays.* | *As he'd missed his train, we invited him to* **sleep the night** *with us.* (=sleep in our house for that night) **2** [T] to provide beds or places for sleep for (a number of people): *The back seat of the car folds down to sleep two.* **3 sleep like a log** *infml* to sleep deeply, esp. without moving **4 sleep rough** to sleep in uncomfortable conditions, esp. out of doors **5 to sleep: perchance to dream** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, sometimes used by people speaking about what may happen after death

sleep around *phr v* [I] *infml derog* to have sex with a lot of different people; be PROMISCUOUS

sleep in *phr v* [I] **1** to intentionally sleep later than usual in the morning; LIE **in** (1): *I often sleep in on Sundays.* —compare OVERSLEEP **2** *BrE* to sleep at one's place of work; LIVE **in** —opposite **sleep out**

sleep sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** to get rid of (a feeling or effect of something) by sleeping: *He went to bed to sleep off his enormous lunch.* **2 sleep it off** *infml* to sleep until one is no longer drunk

sleep on sthg. *phr v* [T] to delay deciding on (a problem) until the next day; spend a night considering: *Look, there's no need to make a decision now; why don't you go home and sleep on it?*

sleep out *phr v* [I] **1** to sleep away from home or outdoors **2** *BrE* to sleep away from one's place of work —opposite **sleep in**

sleep through sthg. *phr v* [T] to fail to wake up during; be asleep and miss hearing, seeing, etc.: *I don't know how you could have slept through that dreadful noise*/*thrilling performance.*

sleep together *phr v* [I] (of two people who are not married) to have sex

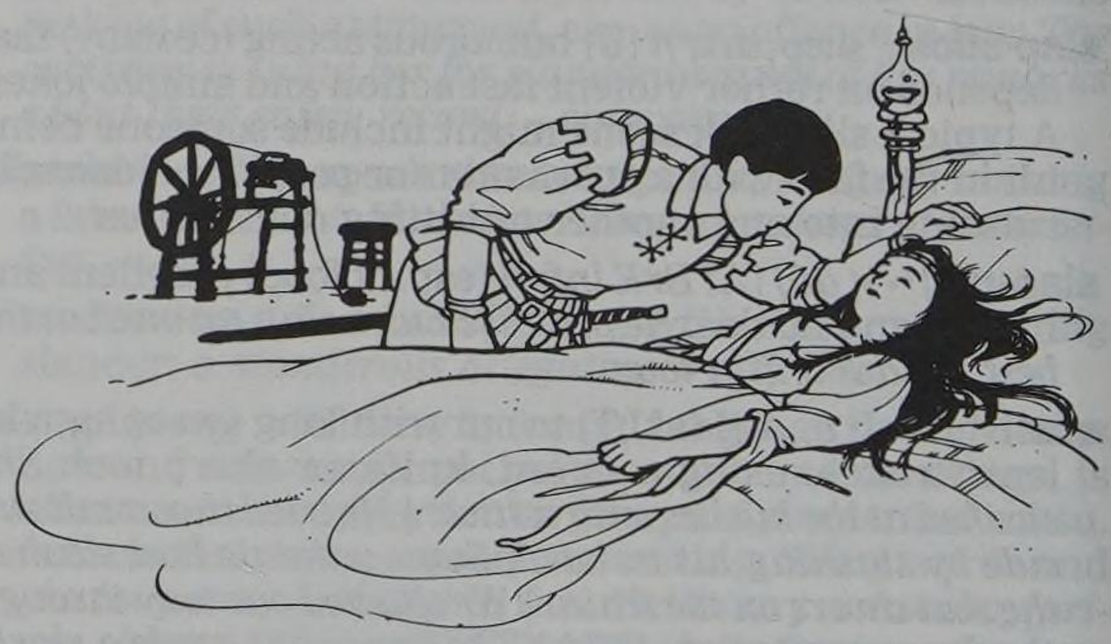
sleep with sbdy. *phr v* [T] to have sex with (someone one is not married to)

Sleep, Wayne (1948–) a popular English male BALLET dancer, who often appears on British television

sleep·er /ˈsliːpәr/ *n* **1** a person sleeping **2** a person who sleeps in the stated way: *I didn't hear the explosion — I'm a heavy*/*sound sleeper.* | *a light sleeper* **3** *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **tie** *AmE*— any of the row of heavy pieces of wood, metal, etc., supporting a railway track **4** a train with beds for sleeping through the night **5** *BrE* a small ring worn in the ear, so as to keep open a hole made there for an EARRING **6** *esp. AmE* something, such as a book, play, record, etc., that has a delayed or unexpected success

sleeping bag /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large warm bag filled with soft material for sleeping in when camping

Sleeping Beauty



Sleeping Beau·ty /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* someone who appears to be sleeping peacefully (from the story of the Sleeping Beauty, in which a princess falls asleep for a hundred years until a prince's kiss breaks the SPELL (3) and wakes her): *Just look at our Sleeping Beauty.*

sleeping car /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a railway carriage with beds for passengers —compare COUCHETTE

sleeping dogs /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [P] **let sleeping dogs lie** not to make trouble for oneself by continuing to remember old arguments and problems one had with someone else

sleeping part·ner /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **silent partner** *AmE*— *n* a partner in a business who takes no active part in its operation

sleeping pill /ˈ·· ·/ also **sleeping tab·let** /ˈ·· ˌ··/— *n* a PILL which helps a person to sleep

►CULTURAL NOTE One can normally only get sleeping pills in Britain with a doctor's PRESCRIPTION. In the US several

kinds are available, both prescription and non-prescription: *She died from an overdose of sleeping pills.*◀

sleeping po·lice·man /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **speed bump** *AmE*– *n* a narrow raised part placed across a road to force traffic to move slowly

sleeping sick·ness /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a serious African disease carried by the TSETSE FLY, that causes loss of weight, fever, and great tiredness

sleep·less /ˈsliːpləs/ *adj* **1** not providing sleep: *I've spent many* **sleepless nights** *worrying about what I should do.* **2** *lit* not sleeping or able to sleep: *He lay sleepless on his bed.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

sleep·walk·er /ˈsliːpˌwɔːkəʳ/ *n* a person who gets up and walks about while asleep. It is believed by many people that you should not wake someone when they are sleepwalking. –**walking** *n* [U] –**sleepwalk** *v* [I]

sleep·y /ˈsliːpi/ *adj* **1** tired and ready for sleep; DROWSY **2** quiet; inactive or slow-moving: *a sleepy country town* –**ily** *adv*: *"What time is it?" she said sleepily* –**iness** *n* [U]

sleep·y·head /ˈsliːpihed/ *n infml* a sleepy person, esp. a child: *Wake up, sleepyhead!*

sleet[1] /sliːt/ *n* [U] partly frozen rain; ice falling in fine bits mixed with water: *The rain/snow turned to sleet.* –see RAIN (USAGE) –~**y** *adj*

sleet[2] *v* [*it*+I] (of sleet) to fall: *It's started sleeting.*

sleeve /sliːv/ *n* **1** a part of a garment for covering (part of) an arm: *a dress with short/long sleeves* | *He rolled up his sleeves and started to dig.* **2** *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **jacket** *AmE*– a stiff envelope for keeping a RECORD[2] (4) in **3** a tube with two open ends for enclosing something, esp. a machine part **4 have/keep something up one's sleeve** *infml* to keep something secret for use at the right time in the future: *I've got a few ideas up my sleeve if this method doesn't work.* **5 -sleeved** /sliːvd/ having sleeves of the stated length or shape: *a short-sleeved shirt* –see also **laugh up one's sleeve** (LAUGH[1]), **wear one's heart on one's sleeve** (WEAR[1]) –~**less** *adj*

sleeve notes /ˈ· ˌ·/ *BrE*‖**liner notes** *AmE*– *n* [P] printed information on a SLEEVE (2) about the contents of the RECORD[2] (4) inside

sleigh /sleɪ/ *n* a large usu. horse-drawn vehicle which slides along snow on two metal blades –compare SLEDGE[1] –see colour picture on page 1212

sleight of hand /ˌslaɪt əv ˈhænd/ *n* [U] skill and quickness of the hands in doing tricks: *He made the coin disappear by sleight of hand.* | (fig.) *It was a remarkable piece of political sleight of hand to get such an unpopular policy accepted.*

slen·der /ˈslendəʳ/ *n* **1** *apprec* delicately or gracefully thin in the body; not fat: *a slender woman/figure* –see THIN (USAGE) **2** (pleasingly) thin compared to length or height; not wide or thick: *The spider hung suspended on its slender thread.* **3** slight; small and hardly enough; MEAGRE: (*euph*) *a person* **of slender means/resources** (=without much money) | *They won the election, but only with a very slender majority.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

slen·der·ize /ˈslendəraɪz/ *v* [I;T] *AmE old-fash* to make (oneself) thinner by eating less, playing sports, etc.

slept /slept/ *past tense & participle of* SLEEP

sleuth /sluːθ/ *n humor for* DETECTIVE (2)

S lev·el /ˈes levəl/ *n* an examination at a very high standard in the British GCE, higher than an A level, usu. taken at the age of 18

slew[1] /sluː/ *past tense of* SLAY

slew[2] ‖ also **slue** *AmE*– *v* [I;T (ROUND, AROUND)] to (cause to) turn or swing violently: *I lost control of the car and it slewed round.*

slew[3] *n* [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] *infml* a large number; lot: *We've got a whole slew of difficulties.*

slewed /sluːd/ *adj* [F] *BrE old-fash sl* drunk

slice[1] /slaɪs/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a thin flat piece cut from something: *a slice of bread/cake* | (fig.) *They wanted to make sure they got a slice of the profits/of the market.* –see CHUNK (USAGE), and see picture at PIECE **2** a kitchen tool with a broad blade for lifting and serving pieces of food –see also FISH SLICE **3** (in sports like GOLF and tennis) (a stroke causing) a flight of a ball towards one side, rather than straight ahead **4 a slice of the cake** (*BrE*) | **pie** (*AmE*) a share in something, esp. a sum of money: *Cities like Birmingham are hoping to get a bigger slice of the grant cake this year.*

slice[2] *v* **1** [T (UP)] to cut into slices: *Slice the cucumber, please.* | *She sliced up the cake.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cut off as a slice: *He sliced off a thick piece from the loaf.* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T] to cut with a knife: *He sliced (into/through) his fingers by accident when cutting vegetables.* **4** [I;T] to hit (a ball) in a SLICE[1] (3) **5 any way you slice it** *AmE infml* however you consider it

sliced bread /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] **1** bread that is sold already cut into slices. **2 (think something is) the best/greatest thing since sliced bread** *infml* (to think, possibly foolishly, very highly of) something new which appears to be wonderful: *He thinks his new word processor is the best thing since sliced bread.*

slice of life /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [S] a representation or experience of life as it really is: *one of those modern dramas that tries to give you a slice of life rather than just entertain you*

slick[1] /slɪk/ *adj* **1** skilful and effective, so as to seem easy: *The dancers gave a very slick performance.* **2** clever, effective, or able to persuade but often not honest: *a slick salesman/advertising campaign* | *slick sales talk* **3** (esp. of roads or tyres) smooth and slippery **4** *AmE apprec* very good: *a slick new car* | *These new programs are really slick.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

slick[2] *n* **1** *infml* an OIL SLICK **2** *AmE for* GLOSSY MAGAZINE

slick[3] *v*

slick sthg.↔**down** *phr v* [T] to make (esp. hair) smooth and shiny with water, oil, etc.

slick·er /ˈslɪkəʳ/ *n* **1** *infml, usu. humor* a well-dressed, self-confident, but probably untrustworthy person –see also CITY SLICKER) **2** *AmE* a coat made to keep out the rain

slide[1] /slaɪd/ *v* **slid** /slɪd/ **1** [I;T] to (cause to) go smoothly over a surface, remaining continually in CONTACT with it: *She slid along the ice.* | *He slid his glass across the table top.* | *Slide the drawer out carefully.* –compare GLIDE **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to pass or move quietly and unnoticed; slip: *She slid out of the room when no one was looking.* | *He slid over/around the question without answering it.* | *She slid the gun out of sight/into her pocket.* **3** [I] to go down to a lower level: *Will the government take action to support the sliding pound?* –see also BACKSLIDE **4 let something slide** *infml* to let a situation or condition continue, esp. getting worse, without taking action or trying to stop it, usu. because of laziness

slide[2] *n* **1** a slipping movement over a surface: *The car went into a slide on the ice.* **2** a downward movement, esp. of prices, amounts, etc.; fall: *How can we halt the slide in living standards?* **3** an apparatus for sliding down: *a children's playground slide* **4** a small piece of film in a frame for passing strong light through to show a picture on a surface: *They showed us some colour slides of their holiday.* | *a slide show/projector* **5** a small piece of thin glass to put an object on for looking at under a microscope: *He mounted the specimen on a slide.* **6** (*usu. in comb.*) a sudden fall of material down a hill: *a snowslide/rockslide/mudslide* –see also LANDSLIDE **7** a HAIR SLIDE **8** a sliding machine part, such as the U-shaped tube on a TROMBONE –see picture at BRASS

slide rule /ˈ· ·/ *n* an instrument for calculating numbers, usu. made of a ruler marked with LOGARITHMS, with a middle part that slides along its length

sliding door /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a door that slides across an opening rather than swinging from one side of it

sliding scale /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a system of pay, taxes, etc., calculated by rates which may vary according to changing conditions

slight[1] /slaɪt/ *adj* **1** small in degree; not considerable, noticeable, or serious: *a slight pain* | *a slight improvement* | *There's been a slight change in the plans.* | *I haven't the slightest idea* (=I have no idea) *what you're talking about.* **2** *esp. lit* not strong-looking; thin and delicate: *Her slight frame was shaken by bouts of coughing.* **3 in the slightest** (*usu. in negatives*) at all: *"Do you mind if I open the window?" "Not in the slightest; please do."* –~**ness** *n* [U]

slight[2] *v* [T] to treat (a person or group) rudely, without respect, or as if unimportant –~**ingly** *adv*

slight[3] *n* [(**on, to**)] a slighting act; INSULT: *I'm afraid he took your remark as a slight on/to his work.*

slight·ly /ˈslaɪtli/ *adv* **1** to a slight degree; a bit; rather: *This one's slightly better than that, but not much.* | *I feel slightly ill.* **2** in a slight way: *a small slightly-built man*

Sli·go /ˈslaɪgəʊ/ a COUNTY in the W of the Republic of Ireland

sli·ly /ˈslaɪli/ *adv* see SLY

slim[1] /slɪm/ *adj* **-mm-** *apprec* **1** (esp. of a person) attractively thin; not fat

►CULTURAL NOTE It is thought attractive and desirable by many people to be slim: *a slim elegant girl | slim hips | to keep slim by taking regular exercise* —see THIN (USAGE)◄

2 (of hope, probability, etc.) very small; slight: *Our chances of winning are slim.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

slim[2] *v* **-mm-** **1** [I] *BrE* to (try to) make oneself thinner by eating less, taking a lot of exercise, etc.: *I don't want any cake; I'm slimming|trying to slim|on a slimming diet.* —*see also* DIET **2** [T (DOWN)] to reduce in size or number: *attempts to slim (down) the company's workforce* —~**mer** *n* —~**ming** *n* [U]

Slim also **Slim dis·ease** /ˈ· ·ˌ·/— *n* [U] *EAfr Eng for* AIDS

slime /slaɪm/ *n* [U] an unpleasant partly-liquid substance, such as the thick sticky liquid produced by the skin of various fish and SNAILS: *The snails left a trail of slime.* | *a pond covered in green slime*

slim·y /ˈslaɪmi/ *adj* **1** like, covered with, or being slime; unpleasantly slippery, esp. to touch: *a slimy mess of squashed fruit* **2** *derog* trying to please in order to gain advantage, for oneself; insincerely HUMBLE: *a slimy manner* —**-iness** *n* [U]

sling[1] /slɪŋ/ *v* **slung** /slʌŋ/ [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] to cause to hang or be loosely supported: *She slung her coat over her shoulder.* | *A line of flags was slung between the trees.* **2** *infml* to throw, esp. roughly or with effort: [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *He slung it into the wastepaper basket.* | (fig.) *If you don't attend all the lectures you'll get slung off|slung out of the course.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Sling me the keys.* **3 sling mud at** to say unfair and damaging things about (esp. a political opponent) **4 sling one's hook** *BrE sl* to go away

sling[2] *n* **1** a piece of cloth for hanging from the neck to support a damaged arm or hand: *She had her arm in a sling.* **2** an apparatus of ropes, bands, etc., for holding heavy objects to be lifted or carried **3** a length of cord with a piece of leather in the middle, held at the ends and swung round, used in former times for throwing stones with force **4** a cloth band on a weapon for carrying it upright behind the shoulder or across the back **5 the slings and arrows (of outrageous fortune)** *quote* all the difficulties and opposition people have to face in their lives (a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*)

sling·shot /ˈslɪŋʃɒt‖-ʃɑːt/ *n AmE for* CATAPULT[1] (1)

slink /slɪŋk/ *v* **slunk** /slʌŋk/ [I+*adv*|*prep*] to move quietly and secretly (esp. away from something), as if in fear or shame: *The defeated army slunk back to its strongholds in the mountains.*

slink·y /ˈslɪŋki/ *adj infml apprec* (esp. of a garment) smooth and rather tight, so as to show off the lines of the body: *her slinky black dress* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

slip[1] /slɪp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [I] to slide a short distance out of place quickly and unexpectedly, or fall by sliding: *My foot slipped and I nearly fell.* | *It was icy, and people were slipping and sliding all along the street.* | *The soap slipped out of my hand.* —see also SLIPPERY **2** [I+*adv*|*prep*] to move smoothly, secretly, or unnoticed: *She slipped into|out of the room when no one was looking.* | *I'm just going to slip down to the shops.* | *As the years slipped by|past, I thought less about her.* | (fig.) *I'm sorry I told them your secret – it just slipped out.* | (fig.) *The terrorists managed to slip through the airport's security net.* | (fig.) *You're not going to let a wonderful chance like that* **slip through your fingers,** *are you?* **3** [T] to put or give smoothly, secretly, or unnoticed: [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *I slipped a note into her hand under the table.* | *He slipped his arm round her.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *He slipped the waiter £5 to get them a good table.* **4** [I+**into**|**out of**; T+*obj* +ON|OFF] to put on or take off (a garment) quickly: *He slipped out of his jacket.* | *She slipped her swimsuit on.* —see also SLIP-ON. **5** [T] to get free from (a fastening): *The dog slipped his collar and ran away.* | *The boat slipped its moorings.* **6** [T] to escape from (one's attention, memory, etc.); be forgotten or unnoticed by: *I'm sorry I forgot his birthday; the date completely slipped my mind.* **7** [I (UP)] to make a slight mistake: *The office slipped up and the letter was never sent.* —see also SLIP-UP **8** [I] to fall from a standard; get worse or lower: *I'm afraid the National Theatre Company is slipping; this year's productions have been very poor.* | *Profits have slipped slightly this year.* **9 let slip: a** to fail to follow (a chance, offer, etc.) **b** to say without intending; make known accidentally: *She let slip that she was intending to leave the company.* **10 slip a disc** to get a SLIPPED DISC **11 slip something over on** *infml, esp. AmE* to trick (someone) cleverly

slip[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of slipping or sliding **2** [C] a usu. slight mistake: *If you make a slip, rub it out neatly.* | *"Jim" was a* **slip of the tongue;** *I meant to say "John".* —see also FREUDIAN SLIP **3** [C] a woman's undergarment which hangs from the shoulders or waist: *Your slip's showing.* **4** (in cricket) a fielding (FIELD[2] (1)) position close to the BATSMAN and just behind him on the off (OFF[4]) side: *Gower was caught at slip.* **5 give someone the slip** *infml* to escape from someone, esp. someone who is chasing one —see also PILLOWCASE **6 there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip** a plan or intention may easily go wrong before it is fully carried out or when it seemed to be about to succeed

slip[3] *n* **1** [(**of**)] a usu. small or narrow piece of paper: *She marked her place in the book with a slip of paper.* | *Write your name and address on this pink slip.* **2** *tech* a small branch cut for planting; CUTTING **3** [+**of**; *usu. sing.*] *old-fash infml* a small thin young person: *She's only* **a slip of a girl.** **4** a place next to a PIER or in a HARBOUR to keep a boat in the water

slip·case /ˈslɪpˌkeɪs/ *n* a usu. cardboard protective cover with one open end, for keeping a book in

slip·cov·er /ˈslɪpkʌvəʳ/ *n AmE* **1** a DUST JACKET **2** a loose cloth cover for furniture which is easily removed for cleaning

slip·knot /ˈslɪpnɒt‖-nɑːt/ *n* a knot that can be tightened round something by pulling one of its ends

slip-on /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] (of shoes) able to be put on without fastenings: *slip-on shoes* —**slip-on** *n* : *a pair of slip-ons*

slip·page /ˈslɪpɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] (the amount of) slipping: *a steep slippage in the peso* | *a general slippage in management discipline*

slipped disc /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [S] a painful movement out of place of one of the DISCS (=connecting parts) between vertebrae (VERTEBRA) in the human back —see also **slip a disc** (SLIP[1] (10))

slip·per /ˈslɪpəʳ/ *n* also **carpet slipper** *old use*— *n* a light shoe with the top made from soft material, usu. worn indoors —see also GLASS SLIPPER; see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at SHOE

slip·per·y /ˈslɪpəri/ *adj* **1** difficult to hold or to stand on, drive on, etc., without slipping: *Drive very carefully; the roads are wet and slippery.* | *a slippery fish* **2** *infml* not to be trusted; SHIFTY: *Don't lend any money to him—he's a* **slippery customer.** (=an untrustworthy person) —**-iness** *n* [U]

slippery slope /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a situation in which it is difficult to change your mind or go back: *Once they've tried soft drugs they're really on the slippery slope to addiction.*

slip·py /ˈslɪpi/ *adj infml* **1** slippery **2 look slippy** [*usu. imperative*] *BrE* to hurry up; be quick

slip road /ˈ· ·/ *BrE*‖**ramp** *AmE*— *n* a road for driving onto or off a MOTORWAY

slip·shod /ˈslɪpʃɒd‖-ʃɑːd/ *adj* careless; not exact or thorough: *a slipshod piece of work* | *slipshod reasoning*

slip·stream[1] /ˈslɪpstriːm/ *n* **1** an area of low air pressure just behind a fast-moving vehicle, e.g. a racing car, which helps a following driver to keep up his or her speed easily **2** a stream of air driven backwards by an aircraft engine

slipstream[2] *v* [I] to drive in the slipstream of the vehicle in front

slip-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* a usu. slight unintentional mistake —see also SLIP[1] (7)

slip·way /ˈslɪpweɪ/ *n* a track sloping down into the water for moving ships into or out of water

slit[1] /slɪt/ *n* a long narrow cut or opening: *Light shone*

through a slit under the door. —compare SLOT[1]

slit[2] *v* **slit**; *present participle* **-tt-** [T] to make a slit in; cut, esp. carefully or intentionally: *Her long dress was slit up to the knee in Chinese style.* | *They slit his throat.* | *She slit the envelope open with a knife.*

slith·er /ˈslɪðəʳ/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] **1** to move (one's body) in a slipping or twisting way: *a snake slithering through the long grass* **2** to slide or slip (while trying to walk): *People were slithering about on the icy pavement.*

slith·er·y /ˈslɪðəri/ *adj* slippery in appearance or feeling

sliv·er /ˈslɪvəʳ/ *n* [(**of**)] a small thin pointed and often sharp piece cut or torn off: *a sliver of glass from the broken window* —see picture at PIECE

sliv·o·vitz /ˈslɪvəvɪts, ˈsliː-/ *n* [U] a strong alcoholic drink made in SE Europe from PLUMS

Sloane Rang·er /ˌsləʊn ˈreɪndʒəʳ/ also **Sloane** *infml– n derog* (in Britain) a STEREOTYPE of a young person, esp. a woman, who comes from an upper MIDDLE-CLASS family, esp. from the country areas in the south of England, and a particular set of CONSERVATIVE values. Sloane Rangers typically wear DESIGNER clothes and spend a lot of time on their social lives, esp. in fashionable places such as Chelsea. People often joke about them driving Range Rovers, wearing Barbour jackets and GREEN WELLIES, and saying "OK yah" and calling their parents "Mummy and Daddy" past the usual age for using these terms. Their lifestyle is thought to be very SHALLOW[1] (2): *The '90s have brought a new, more broad-minded and thoughtful breed of thirtysomething Sloanes.* —compare COUNTY[2], see also HOORAY HENRY —**Sloane, Sloaney** *adj*

Sloane Square /ˌ· ˈ·/ a fashionable, expensive place to live in London

slob /slɒb‖slɑːb/ *n infml* a rude, lazy, dirty, or carelessly dressed person: *When are you going to get out of bed, you fat slob?*

slob·ber /ˈslɒbəʳ‖ˈslɑː-/ *v* [I] *derog* **1** to have SALIVA (=the liquid produced by the mouth) running from one's mouth: *I hate having dogs slobbering all over my hand.* **2** [(**over**)] to express feelings of admiration too openly and without careful judgment: *This is the worst sort of poetry, slobbering over the beauties of nature.* —compare DROOL

sloe /sləʊ/ *n* a small bitter kind of PLUM

sloe gin /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] an alcoholic drink made with sloes, GIN, and sugar

slog[1] /slɒg‖slɑːg/ *v* **-gg-** **1** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml esp. BrE* to do hard dull work without stopping; make one's way by continuous effort: *That maths homework was really difficult; I slogged away at it for hours!* | *We slogged up the hill through the mud.* **2** [I;T] *infml esp. BrE* (esp. in cricket) to hit (the ball) hard and wildly —~**ger** *n*

slog[2] *n* **1** [S;U] *BrE* (a period of) hard dull work without stopping: *It was a real slog addressing all those envelopes.*| *the long hard slog ahead* **2** [C] *BrE* (esp. in cricket) a wild hard hit **3** [C] a period of difficult walking: *a long slog up the mountain*

slo·gan /ˈsləʊgən/ *n* a short phrase expressing a usu. political or advertising message: *"Small is beautiful" was his slogan.* | *demonstrators chanting anti-nuclear slogans* | *to daub slogans on walls* —compare MOTTO (1)

sloop /sluːp/ *n* **1** a small sailing ship with one central MAST (=pole) and sails along its length **2** a small armed ship such as a CUTTER (1b)

slop[1] /slɒp‖slɑːp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [T] to cause (a liquid) to go over the side of a container, SPILL: *He stirred in the sugar vigorously, slopping tea into the saucer as he did so.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] (of a liquid) to do this: *Some of the soup slopped over the edge of the bowl.* —compare SLOSH **3** [T] *AmE* to feed (pigs)

slop about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* **1** *derog* to move about in a lazy purposeless way **2** to play in or move about in anything wet or dirty

slop out *phr v* [I] *BrE* (of a prisoner) to empty SLOPS[2] (4) from a CHAMBER POT

slop[2] also **slops** *pl.*– *n* [U] **1** *derog* tasteless liquid food **2** liquid waste from food or drinks: *slops from the tea and coffee cups* **3** food waste, esp. for feeding to animals **4** *BrE* dirty water or URINE

slope[1] /sləʊp/ *v* [I] to lie or move in a direction neither completely upright nor completely flat; be or go at an angle: *The mountains slope down to the sea.* | *The floor slopes badly here.* | *sloping handwriting*

slope off *phr v* [I] *BrE infml* to go away secretly, esp. so as to escape or avoid work: *As soon as the boss left I sloped off home.*

slope[2] *n* **1** a surface that slopes; a piece of ground going up or down: *to climb a steep slope* | *a gentle slope* | *a ski slope* | (fig.) *The party is on the slippery slope to ruin.* **2** a degree of sloping; a measure of an angle from a level direction: *a slope of 30 degrees*

slop·py /ˈslɒpi‖ˈslɑːpi/ *adj* **1** not careful or thorough enough: *This is a very sloppy piece of work.* **2** *infml* (esp. of clothes) loose, informal, and careless-looking or dirty-looking: *a sloppy old sweater* **3** *infml* silly in showing feelings: *sloppy sentimentalism* —**-pily** *adv* —**-piness** *n* [U]

sloppy joe /ˌslɒpi ˈdʒəʊ‖ˌslɑː-/ *n AmE* a dish made from BEEF with SPICES added served on a BUN

slosh /slɒʃ‖slɑːʃ/ *v infml* **1** [I;T] to move or cause (a liquid) to move about (as if) against the sides of a container: *Water sloshed about in the bottom of the boat.* | *She sloshed the wine around in her glass* —compare SLOP[1] **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk through water or mud noisily: *We sloshed along in our rubber boots.* **3** [T] *BrE* to hit; PUNCH

sloshed /slɒʃt‖slɑːʃt/ *adj* [F] *infml* drunk

slot[1] /slɒt‖slɑːt/ *n* **1** a long straight narrow opening or hollow place, esp. in a machine or tool: *Put a coin in the slot.*| *a slot in the top of a screw* —compare SLIT[1] **2** *infml* a place or position in a list, system, organization, etc.: *He's been given a regular ten-minute slot on the radio.* | *to fill advertising slots*

slot[2] *v* **-tt-** **1** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*adv/prep*, esp. IN, **into**] to put or be put into a SLOT[1] (1): *You buy this bookcase in sections and slot them together.* | *"This box has a removable lid which slots back in like this", he said, slotting it into the box.* **2** *infml, esp. BrE* to fit into a SLOT[1] (2); find a place for or be found a place: *This new car slots in between the economy model and the executive model in our range.* | *I've got some urgent business to discuss. Can you slot me in after lunch?*

sloth /sləʊθ/ *n* **1** [C] a slow-moving animal of central and S America that lives in trees and hangs by all four legs from branches **2** [U] *esp. lit* unwillingness to work; laziness. Sloth is one of the Seven Deadly Sins. —see also SEVEN DEADLY SINS

sloth·ful /ˈsləʊθfəl/ *adj esp. lit* unwilling to work or be active; lazy —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

slot ma·chine /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* a VENDING MACHINE **2** *AmE for* ONE-ARMED BANDIT

slot·ted /ˈslɒtɪd‖ˈslɑː-/ *adj* having a SLOT[1] (1) cut into it: *a slotted screw*

slotted spat·u·la /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n AmE for* FISH SLICE —see picture at KITCHEN

slouch[1] /slaʊtʃ/ *n* **1** [S] a tired-looking round-shouldered way of sitting, standing, or walking **2** [C *usu. in negatives*] *infml* a lazy, slow, or useless person: *He's* **no slouch** *when it comes to writing books.* (=he writes them quickly and often)

slouch[2] *v* [I] to sit, stand, or walk with a slouch: *She slouches around the house all day, doing nothing.* —~**ingly** *adv*

slouch hat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a man's soft hat with a BRIM that can be pulled down

slough[1] /slʌf/ *v*

slough sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** (esp. of a snake) to throw off (dead outer skin) **2** *esp. lit* to get rid of as something worn out or unwanted

slough over *phr v* [T] *AmE* to treat as unimportant, esp. in order to hide a problem or difficulty: *He sloughed over all the details about how much it would cost and said we could drive it home tonight.*

slough[2] /slaʊ‖sluː, slaʊ/ *n* **1** a place of deep mud or MARSH **2** [(**of**)] *lit* a bad condition from which one cannot easily get free: *a slough of self-pity*

Slough /slaʊ/ a modern, industrial town in Berkshire, S England

Slough of Des·pond /ˌslaʊ əv dɪˈspɒnd‖ˌsluː- əv dɪˈspɑːnd, slaʊ-/ [*the*] *lit or pomp* a situation full of doubts and fears (from the name of a place in John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*)

Slo·va·ki·a /sləʊˈvɑːkiə/ a country in central Europe, bordered by the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Hungary, and Ukraine, formerly part of Czechoslovakia; capital Bratislava

Slo·ve·ni·a /sləʊˈviːniə/ a country in SE Europe bordered by Austria, Italy, and Croatia, formerly part of Yugoslavia; capital Ljubljana; population 1,940,000 (1988) —**-nian** *n, adj*

slov·en·ly /ˈslʌvənli/ *adj* **1** (of habits, etc.) not clean, neat, or orderly; untidy: *How can you bear to live in such slovenly conditions?* **2** very carelessly done: *a slovenly piece of work* —**-liness** *n* [U]

slow[1] /sləʊ/ *adj* **1** not moving, acting, or happening quickly; having less than a usual or average speed: *a slow train | slow music | the slow erosion of rock by wind and rain* **2 a** taking a long time or a longer time than usual: *Heavy traffic made our journey very|painfully slow. | a restaurant with slow service | a long slow process* **b** taking too long, esp. because of unwillingness; not PROMPT: *a slow response to our request for help* [F+*to-v*] *The public has been rather slow to recognize|grasp the implications of the new law.* **3** [F; after *n*] (of a clock) showing a time that is earlier than the true time, often by a stated amount: *The station clocks are (two minutes) slow.* —see CLOCK (USAGE) **4** [A] not intended for quick movement: *the slow lane of a motorway* **5** not very active; dull: *Business is slow just now.* **6** not good or quick in understanding; dull in mind: *our slowest pupils | I'm sorry I'm so slow today; I didn't get much sleep last night. | He's so* **slow off the mark/slow on the uptake** (=slow in understanding) *that you have to repeat the simplest instructions.* **7 slow and steady wins the race** success is gained by steady continuous effort (from the story of the Tortoise and the Hare by Aesop, in which the TORTOISE, moving slowly but steadily, wins a race) —**~ly** *adv* : *The time passed slowly. | The project is slowly gathering momentum.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

slow[2] *v* [I;T (UP, DOWN)] to make or become slower: *The train slowed as it went around the bend. | Business slows up|down at this time of year. | She slowed the car to a crawl. | His bad leg slows him down a lot.*

slow[3] *adv* slowly —see also GO-SLOW

▷ USAGE **Slowly** is the usual adverb. **Slow** (*adv*) is rarely used except in combination with other words: **slow**-*moving traffic*. But the comparative and superlative forms **slower** and **slowest** are just as common as *more* **slowly** and *most* **slowly**: *John ran* **slower**|*more* **slowly** *than the others and missed the train.*◁

slow·coach /ˈsləʊkəʊtʃ/ *BrE*‖**slowpoke** *AmE n* a person who thinks, moves, or acts slowly: *Hurry up, slowcoach!*

slow·down /ˈsləʊdaʊn/ *n* **1** a lessening of speed or activity; slowing down: *a slowdown in economic growth* **2** *AmE for* GO-SLOW

slow hand·clap /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a slow clapping (CLAP[1]) action of the hands, showing annoyance or impatience: *The audience were impatient for the show to begin, and started a slow handclap.*

slow mo·tion /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *n* [U] action which takes place at a much slower speed than in real life, esp. as shown for special effect in films: *a replay of the athlete's performance in slow motion*

slow move·ment /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the slow part of a piece of music such as a CONCERTO or SYMPHONY. The slow movement is often the second of four MOVEMENTS (4).

slow pitch /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [U] a game like SOFTBALL played by teams of men and women together in which the ball is thrown so that it goes high in the air before it enters the area where the hitter is: *Slow pitch leagues are a popular way to socialize.*

slow·poke /ˈsləʊpəʊk/ *n AmE for* SLOWCOACH

slow-wit·ted /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* slow at understanding things

slow·worm /ˈsləʊwɜːm‖-wɜːrm/ *n* a small harmless European LIZARD with very small eyes and no legs, that moves like a snake

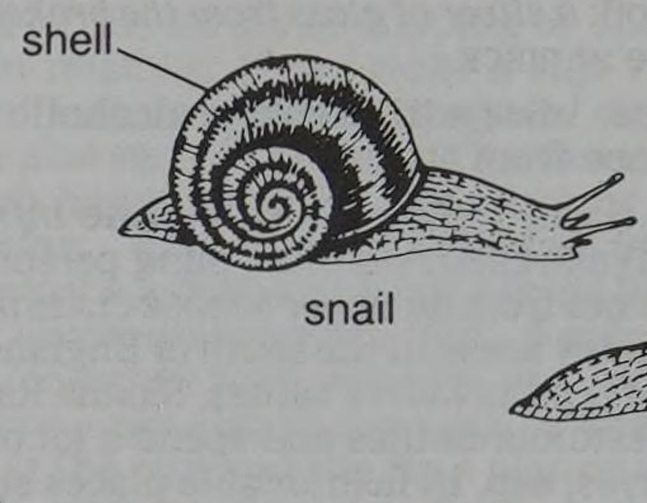
SLR /ˌes el ˈɑːr/ *n* single lens reflex; a camera that allows the user to view the subject through the same LENS through which the picture is taken

sludge /slʌdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** soft mud or other dirty matter which settles at the bottom of a liquid: *to clear sludge from the drains* —compare SEDIMENT **2** the mudlike product of SEWAGE treatment **3** dirty waste oil in an engine — **sludgy** *adj*

slue /sluː/ *v* [I;T] *AmE for* SLEW[2]

slug[1] /slʌg/ *n* **1** a small soft limbless plant-eating creature, related to the SNAIL but with no shell, that often damages garden plants **2 slugs and snails and puppy dogs' tails** a phrase from a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children) saying what little boys are made of

slug



snail



slug

slug[2] *n* **1** a lump or piece of metal, esp. **a** *infml, esp. AmE* a bullet **b** *AmE* a coin-shaped object illegally put into a machine in place of a coin **2** [**(of)**] *infml, esp. AmE* an amount of strong alcoholic drink taken at one swallow: *a slug of whiskey*

slug[3] *v* **-gg-** [T] *infml* **1** *esp. AmE* to strike with a heavy blow, esp. with the closed hand and so as to make unconscious **2 slug it out** to fight fiercely to the end

slug·gard /ˈslʌgəd‖-ərd/ *n lit* a habitually lazy person

slug·ger /ˈslʌgəʳ/ *n AmE infml* (in BASEBALL) a person who hits the ball very hard

slug·gish /ˈslʌgɪʃ/ *adj* slow-moving; not very active or quick: *a sluggish stream|car engine | This humid heat makes you feel rather sluggish. | Trading on the stock exchange has been sluggish today.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

sluice[1] /sluːs/ *n* a passage for water with an opening (a **sluice gate** or **sluice valve**) through which the flow can be controlled or stopped

sluice[2] *v* **1** [T (OUT, DOWN)] to wash with floods or streams of water (as if) from a sluice: *We sluiced out the cowshed.* **2** [I+*adv|prep*] (of water) to come (as if) from a sluice; come in streams

slum[1] /slʌm/ *n* **1** also **slums** *pl.*— a city area of poor living conditions and old unrepaired buildings, esp. in the centre of a city: *living in the slums of London | derelict slum property* —compare GHETTO, SHANTYTOWN **2** *infml derog* a very untidy place —**~my** *adj*

slum[2] *v* **-mm-** *infml* **1** [I *usu. in progressive forms*] to visit a place on a much lower social level than one's own, esp. for interest or amusement **2 slum it** *old-fash* to accept or choose a lower standard of living than one is used to: *We'll have to slum it in the kitchen while the dining room is being painted.*

slum·ber[1] /ˈslʌmbəʳ/ *v* [I] *lit* to lie asleep; sleep peacefully —**~er** *n*

slumber[2] also **slumbers** *pl.*— *n* [S;U] *lit* a state of sleep: *He woke the princess from her slumber.*

slum·ber·ous /ˈslʌmbərəs/ also **slum·brous** /ˈslʌmbrəs/— *adj lit* sleepy; wanting or suggesting sleep

slum·lord /ˈslʌmlɔːd ‖ -lɔːrd/ *n AmE* a LANDLORD (person who owns property to let) in a poor part of a city

slump[1] /slʌmp/ *v* [I] **1** [+*adv|prep*] to drop down suddenly and heavily: *He was sitting slumped over his typewriter, with a knife in his back.* **2** to go down suddenly or severely in number or strength: *Sales have slumped badly in the last month.* **3** [I;T] to sit, stand, or walk with one's shoulders rounded or bent forward

slump[2] *n* **1** a period of seriously bad business conditions and unemployment; DEPRESSION (2): *the economic slump of the 1930s* **2** a sudden fall in value, trade, etc.: *a slump in prices|demand* **3** *esp. AmE* a period of time when a player or team does not play well

slung /slʌŋ/ *past tense & participle of* SLING

slunk /slʌŋk/ *past tense & participle of* SLINK

slur[1] /slɜːʳ/ *v* **-rr-** [T] **1** to pronounce (a sound in a word)

unclearly or not at all: *You could tell from his slurred speech that he was drunk.* **2** *tech* to sing or play (notes) in a smooth and connected manner

slur[2] *n* **1** [S] a slurring way of speaking **2** [C] *tech* a curved line, ⁀ or ⁔, written over or under musical notes to show that they must be played smoothly without separation

slur[3] *v* **-rr-** [T] to make unfair damaging remarks, suggesting dishonesty, etc. —**slur** *n* [(**on**)] : *He felt the remarks cast a slur on his reputation.*

slurp /slɜːp‖slɜːrp/ *v* [I;T] *infml* to move or drink with the sound of noisy sucking: *The oil slurped into the barrels.* | *Don't slurp your soup, children.*

slur·pee /ˈslɜːpi ‖ -ɜːr-/ *n tdmk, AmE* a drink made with crushed ice and a sweet liquid, usu. tasting of fruit

slur·ry /ˈslʌri‖ˈslɜːri/ *n* [U] a watery mixture, esp. of clay, mud, LIME, or MANURE

slush /slʌʃ/ *n* [U] **1** partly melted snow; watery snow **2** [U] *infml derog* literature, books, films, etc., concerned with silly love stories **3** [C;U] *AmE* (a glass of) a drink made with crushed ice and a sweet liquid: *a cherry slush* —~**y** *adj*

slush fund /ˈ· ·/ *n esp. AmE* a sum of money (**slush money**) secretly kept for dishonest use, such as by a politician in an election

slut /slʌt/ *n derog* **1** a sexually immoral woman **2** an untidy lazy woman —~**tish** *adj*

sly /slaɪ/ *adj* **1** not telling others one's intentions or thoughts; having or showing a secretive nature: *You're a sly one! Why didn't you tell us you were going to get married?* | *a sly smile* **2** clever in deceiving; dishonestly tricky: *a sly old fox* **3 on the sly** *infml* secretly and usu. dishonestly or illegally: *I think she's making expensive personal telephone calls from work on the sly.* —**slyly, slily** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

smack[1] /smæk/ *v* [T] **1** to strike quickly and forcefully, esp. with the flat part of the hands making a loud noise: *If you children don't behave, I'll smack your bottoms!* — compare SPANK[1]; see SLAP[2] (USAGE) **2** to open and close (one's lips) noisily, esp. as a sign of eagerness to eat **3** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to put firmly, making a quick loud noise: *He smacked down a £5 note and said "Keep the change!"*

smack[2] *n* **1** a quick loud noise: *The book hit the floor with a smack.* **2** [(**on**)] *infml* a loud kiss: *She gave him a smack on the cheek.* **3** [(**on, in**)] *infml* a quick loud forceful blow: *a smack on the jaw* **4** [(**at**)] *infml* an attempt: *I'm willing to have a smack at it.*

smack[3] *adv* [+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* **1** with force: *The car ran smack into a wall.* **2** also **smack-dab, smack-bang** /ˌ· ˈ·/ *esp. AmE* directly; exactly; right: *There it was, smack in the middle of the room.*

smack[4] *n* a small sailing boat used for fishing

smack[5] *v*

smack of sthg. *phr v* [T] to have a taste or suggestion of (something negative or unwanted): *His remarks smack of disloyalty.* | *The government's change of heart smacks of expediency.*

smack[6] also **scag, skag**— *n* [U] *sl for* HEROIN

smack·er /ˈsmækəʳ/ *n infml* **1** [*usu. pl.*] also **smack·er·oo** /ˌsmækəˈruː/— a pound or dollar **2** a loud kiss

small[1] /smɔːl/ *adj* **1** of less than usual or average size, weight, amount, force, importance, etc.; not large: *He's a small man, only five feet tall.* | *My daughter is small for her age.* | *The mouse is a very small animal.* | *a small number of people* | *He has a small family.* | *She'd managed to save a small amount of money.* | *You made one or two small mistakes, but otherwise your work was good.* | *These shoes are too small for me.* —opposite **large** **2** [A] young: *This is a story for small children.* **3** [A] doing only a limited amount of a business or activity: *He's in business* **in a small way**. | *a small farmer*|*shopkeeper* | *She's a very small eater.* (=does not eat a lot) **4** [A] very little; slight: *It's small consolation to know that he lost as much on the deal as I did.* | *You've been eating far too much* — **small wonder** (=it is not surprising) *you're getting fat!* **5** (of a letter) LOWER CASE: *"Church" is sometimes written with a capital C and sometimes with a small c.* | (fig.) *I'm a democrat,* **with a small** *"d".* (=I believe in principles of freedom, but do not belong to the Democratic Party.) **6 feel/look small** to feel/look ashamed or unimportant **7 small is beautiful** a phrase meaning that small things can be better than large things, esp. institutions, businesses, and governments (from the book by **E.F. Schumacher** *Small is Beautiful*): *Small is no longer beautiful for fabric patterns.* | *Liechtenstein proves that small can be profitable as well as beautiful.* —*see* LITTLE (USAGE) —~**ness** *n* [U]

small[2] *adv* in a small manner: *He writes so small I can't read it.*

small[3] *n* [*the*+S+**of**] the small narrow part of something, esp. the middle part of the back where it curves in: *a pain in the small of the back* —see also SMALLS

small ad /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE for* CLASSIFIED AD

small arms /ˈ· ·‖ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [P] guns made to be held in one or both hands for firing

small beer /ˈ· ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **small potatoes** *AmE*— *n* [U] *infml derog* a person or thing of little importance: *He thinks he's a mainstay of the company, but he's really rather small beer.*

small busi·ness /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a business which usu. employs fewer than 50 people and has a quite small financial TURNOVER

small busi·ness·man /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* someone who owns a SMALL BUSINESS: *good news for all small businessmen*

small change /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] money in coins of small value: (fig.) *With a turnover of £150 million, £20,000 is small change to them.*

small claims court /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a court where people can bring cases to get back money under a certain (quite low) amount from other people or from businesses

small farm·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* someone who owns a small farm

smallest room /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] *BrE euph* the TOILET

small for·tune /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a lot of money: *That new car must have cost you a small fortune!*

small fry /ˈ· ·/ *n* **small fry** [*usu. pl.*] *infml* a young or unimportant person

small·hold·er /ˈsmɔːlˌhəʊldəʳ/ *n BrE* a person who owns or rents a smallholding

small·hold·ing /ˈsmɔːlˌhəʊldɪŋ/ *n BrE* a piece of land farmed by one person, smaller than an ordinary farm

small hours /ˈ· ·/ *BrE*‖**wee hours** *ScotE and AmE*— *n* [*the*+P] the early morning hours just after midnight: *He came rolling home from the party in the small hours.*

small in·tes·tine /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* the long narrow twisting tube in the body, into which food first passes from the stomach and where most of its chemical change takes place —compare LARGE INTESTINE

small-mind·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* having or showing a mind that is very limited and ungenerous; PETTY: *She made you pay for a sprig of parsley? How small-minded can you get?* — compare NARROW-MINDED —~**ness** *n* [U]

small po·ta·toes /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [P] *AmE for* SMALL BEER

small·pox /ˈsmɔːlpɒks‖-pɑːks/ *n* [U] a serious infectious disease that caused spots which left marks on the skin. By 1980 there were no cases of this disease anywhere in the world because of the effectiveness of the smallpox VACCINE.

small print /ˈ· ˌ·/ also **fine print**— *n* [(*the*)U] something that is purposely made difficult to understand or is easy not to notice, such as part of an agreement or CONTRACT: *It says in the small print that we're responsible for all repairs.*

smalls /smɔːlz/ *n* [P] *BrE old-fash infml* small articles of underclothing, handkerchiefs, etc.

small-scale /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* small in size and operation: *a small-scale undertaking*

small screen /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [*the*+S] television: *a film made for the small screen*

small talk /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] light conversation on unimportant or non-serious subjects: *people making small talk at a cocktail party*

small-time /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* limited in activity, profits, wealth, ability, etc.; unimportant: *a small-time criminal* — compare BIG TIME —**-timer** *n*

small town /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* a town of a size up to about 10,000 people

▶CULTURAL NOTE The word **village** in American English

has associations with the Old World or the Third World, and is usu. not used of small settlements in the US: *I grew up in a small town.* | *There are a lot of small towns in this area.*◀

—**small-town** /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj*: *her small-town background*

small town val·ues /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [P] *AmE* behaviour and ideas connected with people from small towns, including honesty, friendliness, politeness, PATRIOTISM, and MODESTY, but sometimes also suggesting narrow-mindedness (NARROW-MINDED)

smarm·y /ˈsmɑːmi‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* unpleasantly and falsely polite; UNCTUOUS

smart[1] /smɑːt‖smɑːrt/ *adj* **1** *esp. BrE* neat and stylish in appearance: *You look very smart in that new shirt.* | *a smart new car* —see also SMARTEN **2** *esp. AmE* **a** good or quick in thinking; clever: *If he's as smart as he says, why did the cops catch him?* —see CLEVER (USAGE) **b** disrespectful, esp. towards someone older such as one's teachers or parents; IMPUDENT: *Don't get smart with me, young man!* **3** *BrE* quick and forceful: *a smart blow on the head* | *a smart rise/fall in prices* **4** being or used by very fashionable people: *London's smartest restaurant* — ~**ly** *adv*: *She was very smartly dressed.* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

smart[2] *v* [I] **1** to cause or feel a painful stinging sensation, usu. in one part of the body and not lasting long: *The place where he had cut his knee was smarting.* | *The smoke made my eyes smart.* **2** to be hurt in one's feelings; suffer in mind: *She was still smarting from/over his unkind words.*

smart[3] *n* **1** a smarting pain **2** something that hurts the feelings or pride: *He felt the smart of their insult for many days.*

smart al·eck /ˈsmɑːt ˌæl|ək‖-ɑːr-/ also **smart-arse** /ˈ· ·/ *BrE sl*‖**smart-ass** *AmE sl— n infml* a person who annoys others by claiming to know everything and trying to sound clever — ~**y** *adj*

smart card /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a CREDIT or DEBIT card with a memory CHIP[1] (6). It records and remembers any business one does with it.

smart·en /ˈsmɑːtn‖-ɑːr-/ *v*

smarten up *phr v* [I;T (=**smarten** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**)] **1** to improve in appearance; (cause to) become neat or stylish: *We smartened the office up with a fresh coat of paint.* | *Smarten yourself up before you go in to the interview.* **2 smarten up one's act** *infml* to try harder and become more effective

Smar·tie /ˈsmɑːti‖ˈsmɑːr-/ *tdmk* (in Britain) a small chocolate sweet with a coloured sugar covering

smart set /ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the+sing./pl.v*] the very fashionable members of society, considered as a group

smart·y-pants /ˈsmɑːti pænts‖ˈsmɑːr-/ *n* **smarty-pants** *infml* a SMART ALECK

smash[1] /smæʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) break into pieces violently and noisily: *I dropped the plate on the floor and it smashed/it* **smashed to smithereens.** | *Jimmy smashed up his car on the motorway.* (=completely wrecked it in a crash) —see also SMASH-UP; see BREAK (USAGE) **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to go, drive, throw, or hit forcefully, as against something solid; crash: *She lost control of the car and smashed into a lamp-post.* | *He smashed his fist down on the table and demanded immediate service.* **3** [T] to defeat, destroy, or put an end to: *The army smashed the rebellion.* | *The police claim to have smashed this drugs-ring.* | *His performance smashes all previous records.* **4** [T] (in games like tennis) to hit (the ball) with a SMASH[2] (3)

smash[2] *n* **1** (the sound of) a violent breaking; crash: *the smash of glasses breaking on the floor* **2** a powerful blow: *a smash that sent his opponent to the floor* **3** a hard downward attacking shot in tennis and similar games: *to play a smash* **4** a SMASH HIT **5** a SMASH-UP: *They were killed in a smash on the motorway.*

smash-and-grab /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* (of a robbery) done by quickly breaking a shop window, taking the valuable things behind it, and running away

smashed /smæʃt/ *adj* [F] *infml* drunk

smash·er /ˈsmæʃəʳ/ *n infml* **1** something that is very fine or that one admires **2** a very attractive person

smash hit /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a very successful new play, book, film, etc.: *I predict this play will be the smash hit of the season.*

Smash Hits /ˌ· ˈ·/ a magazine for young people with articles on POP[3] and ROCK music

smash·ing /ˈsmæʃɪŋ/ *adj infml, esp. BrE, becoming old-fash* very fine; wonderful; excellent: *We had a smashing holiday.*

smash-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* a serious road or railway accident: *a smash-up involving five cars*

smat·ter·ing /ˈsmætərɪŋ/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a small scattered number or amount **2** limited knowledge: *I picked up a smattering of German during my stay.*

smear[1] /smɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a mark or spot made by smearing: *paint smears* **2** *esp. med* (an act of taking) a small amount of cells from the body prepared for examining under a microscope: *Women are advised to have a cervical smear every five years.* **3** an unproved charge made intentionally to try to turn public feelings against someone: *The Democrats have come up with several new smears about the Republican candidate.*

smear[2] *v* **1 a** [T] to cause (a sticky or oily material) to spread on or go across (a surface): *Be careful: if you touch the wall you'll smear the fresh paint.* [+*obj*+**on, over**] *She smeared sun tan lotion all over herself.* [+*obj*+**with**] *The sides of the child's mouth were smeared with chocolate.* **b** [I] (of such material) to do this: *Be careful; the paint may smear.* —compare SMUDGE; see SPREAD (USAGE) **2** [I;T] to (cause to) lose clearness by smearing or rubbing: *Several words had/were smeared and I couldn't read them.* **3** [T] to make a SMEAR[1] (3) against; charge unfairly

smear cam·paign /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* a deliberate attempt (e.g. through newspapers or television) to damage people's good opinion of someone

smear test /ˈ· ·/ ‖ also **pap smear** *AmE— n* a medical test made by examining a SMEAR[1] (2), esp. of cells from a woman's CERVIX for discovering CANCER

smell[1] /smel/ *v* **smelled** *or* **smelt** /smelt/ [*not in progressive forms*] **1** [I] to have or use the sense of the nose: *I've got a cold and I can't smell.* **2** [T] to notice, examine, discover, or recognize by this sense: *Smell these flowers — they've got a lovely scent.* | *I think I smell gas!* [+*v-ing*] *I can smell burning.* [+(*that*)] *I could smell that the milk wasn't fresh.* [+*wh-*] *My horse can always smell when rain is coming.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] (fig.) *I could smell trouble/danger coming, so I left.* —compare SNIFF[1]; see CAN (USAGE 4) **3** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **of, like**; L+*adj*] to have an effect on the nose; have a particular smell: *The room smelt of stale beer/smelt as if it had not been cleaned recently.* | *a sweet-smelling flower* | *This book smells old.* **4** [I (**of**)] to have an unpleasant smell: *His breath smells.* | *The meat had been left out for days and had started to smell.* —compare STINK[1] **5** [I] to seem or appear: *Her explanation of the events didn't smell right to me.* **6 smell a rat** *infml* to guess that something wrong or dishonest is happening **7 smell fishy** (of an event, etc.) to seem false; cause one to think that there is more information than one has: *He can't be working late again! It smells very fishy to me.*

▷USAGE **Smelt** is more common in British English than **smelled**, but **smelled** is more common in American English. —see also CAN (USAGE 4)◁

smell sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to discover or find (as if) by smelling: *The hounds smelt out a fox.* | *A good reporter must be able to smell out a news story.* **2** *BrE*‖**smell** sbdy/sthg ↔ **up** *AmE* to cause (a place) to be unpleasant because of a bad smell: *That fish is smelling the kitchen out.*

smell[2] *n* **1** [U] the power of using the nose to discover the presence of substances in the air: *A mole tracks its food by smell alone.* | *These dogs have a marvellous sense of smell.* **2** [C (**of**)] a quality that has an effect on the nose: *Some flowers have stronger smells than others.* | *There was a smell of burning.* | *a musty smell* **3** [C] an unpleasant smell; ODOUR: *This new air freshener gets rid of smells fast.* —compare STINK[2]; see also SMELLY **4** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of smelling something: *Have a smell of this wine; does it seem all right?*

smelling salts /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [P] a strong-smelling chemical, esp. AMMONIA, formerly often carried in a small bottle, for curing faintness

smell·y /ˈsmeli/ *adj* unpleasant-smelling: *smelly socks* —**-iness** *n* [U]

smelt[1] /smelt/ *past tense & participle of* SMELL[1] —see SMELL[1] (USAGE)

smelt[2] *v* [T] to melt (ORE) for separating and removing the metal

smelt[3] *n* **smelts** *or* **smelt** a small fish of lakes and coasts

smid·gin, smidgen /ˈsmɪdʒɨn/ *n* [S] *infml* a small amount; bit: *"More cheese?" "Just a smidgin, please."*

smile[1] /smaɪl/ *n* **1** an expression of the face with the mouth turned up at the ends and the eyes bright, that usu. expresses amusement, pleasure, approval, or sometimes bitter feelings: *She had a proud/lovely smile on her face.|He was wearing|his face creased into a broad smile.|a smile of welcome* **2 all smiles** *infml* very happy-looking: *The winner was all smiles as he heard the results of the voting.*

▷USAGE A **smile** is an expression of the face showing amusement or happiness. A **grin** is a very wide smile which usually shows the teeth. A **leer** is an unpleasant smile suggesting cruelty, thoughts of sex, etc., and a **smirk** is a silly, satisfied smile. —see also LAUGH (USAGE)◁

smile[2] *v* **1** [I (**at**); T] to have or make (a smile): *the children's happy smiling faces | It's rare to see him smile. | She smiled at me in a friendly fashion.* [+*to-v*] *When I look back at my youth, I smile* (=am amused) *to think how foolish I was. | She smiled a cheerful smile.* —compare GRIN **2** [T] to express with a smile: *She smiled a greeting.* **3** [I (**on**)] *esp. lit* to act or look favourably: *The weather smiled on us.* (=it was a fine day) —**smilingly** *adv*

smirch /smɜːtʃ‖-smɜːrtʃ/ *v* [T] *fml* to bring dishonour on

smirk /smɜːk‖smɜːrk/ *v* [I] *derog* to smile in a silly self-satisfied way, often at someone else's misfortune —see SMILE (USAGE) —**smirk** *n* : *a triumphant smirk*

Smir·noff /ˈsmɜːnɒf‖ˈsmɜːrnɔːf/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of VODKA

smirr /smɪəʳ/ **, smurr** *n ScotE* a fine misty rain —**smirr** *v* [I]

smite /smaɪt/ *v* **smote** /sməʊt/**, smitten** /ˈsmɪtn/ [T (DOWN)] **1** *old use & lit* to strike hard **2** *esp. bibl & lit* to destroy, attack, or punish as if by a blow **3** [(**by, with**) *usu. pass.*] to have a powerful sudden effect on: *He was smitten by|with grief. | She's been smitten down* (=has become ill) *with flu.* —compare SMITTEN

smith /smɪθ/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a worker in metal, esp. a BLACKSMITH —see also GOLDSMITH, SILVERSMITH

Smith[1] a very common name in Britain and the US, often used **a** by someone wanting a name to use as an example e.g. on a form to be filled in **b** by someone who does not want their real name to be known: *They checked in to the hotel as Mr and Mrs John Smith.*

Smith[2]**, Adam** (1723–90) a Scottish ECONOMIST who established a school of thought in ECONOMICS and is best known for a work usu. known as *The Wealth of Nations*

Smith[3]**, Bes·sie** /ˈbesi/ (1895–1937) an American BLUES singer known as "the Empress of the Blues", whose style influenced many other singers

Smith[4]**, Cy·ril** /ˈsɪrɨl/ (1928–) an English politician, well-known for saying exactly what he thinks and for being an extremely large man

Smith[5]**, De·li·a** /ˈdiːliə/ a English writer of cookery books who has also had a cookery SERIES on British television

Smith[6]**, Harvey** **1** (1938–) an English sportsman who rides horses in SHOW JUMPING competitions **2 do a Harvey Smith** *BrE* to do a V-SIGN (2) (from an occasion when Harvey Smith did a V-sign towards the judges in a show jumping competition)

Smith[7]**, I·an** /ˈiːən/ (1919–) the PRIME MINISTER of Rhodesia from 1964 to 1978 —see also ZIMBABWE

Smith[8]**, John** (1938–) a Scottish politician who became leader of the British Labour Party in 1992

Smith[9]**, Joseph** (1805–44) the American religious teacher who started the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, usu. known as the Mormon Church —see also MORMON

Smith[10]**, Dame Maggie** (1934–) an English actress who has won two Oscars

Smith[11] also **Smith's–, W H** one of a group of shops selling books, newspapers, cards, etc. They can be found in many towns in Britain and in a few places in the US.

Smith and Wes·son /ˈsmɪθ ən wɛsən/ *n tdmk* a make of gun: *I always keep my Smith and Wesson under my pillow at night.*

smith·e·reens /ˌsmɪðəˈriːnz/ *n* **(in)to smithereens** *infml* into extremely small bits; to complete destruction: *The windscreen of the car was* **smashed to smithereens** *in the collision.*

Smith·field /ˈsmɪθfiːld/ the name of the main meat market in London

Smith·so·ni·an In·sti·tu·tion /smɪθˌsəʊniən ˌɪnstɨˈtjuːʃən‖-ˈtuːʃən/ [*the*] a large group of different MUSEUMS, scientific buildings, and collections in Washington, DC, established in 1846 using money left by **James Smithson**, an English scientist

Smith Square /ˌ· ˈ·/ the place in London where the Conservative Party's Central Office is, and where the other main British political parties used to have their head offices

smith·y /ˈsmɪði‖-θi, -ði/ *n* a BLACKSMITH'S place of work

smit·ten /ˈsmɪtn/ *adj esp. humor* in love, esp. suddenly fond of a person —compare SMITE (3)

smock /smɒk‖smɑːk/ *n* **1** a piece of clothing like a long loose shirt, esp. as worn by women, or to protect the clothes in former times by farm workers and painters **2** a piece of clothing worn by a woman who is PREGNANT

smock·ing /ˈsmɒkɪŋ‖ˈsmɑː-/ *n* [U] decoration, esp. on children's dresses, made by gathering cloth into small regular folds held tightly with fancy stitching

smog /smɒg‖smɑːg, smɔːg/ *n* [U] a thick dark unpleasant mist that is sometimes present in certain large cities because of all the smoke and waste gases

smoke[1] /sməʊk/ *n* **1** [U] the usu. white, grey, or black gas produced by things burning: *Clouds of smoke belched from the burning building. | A pillar of smoke rose high into the air. | I love the smell of bonfire smoke. | The room was full of cigarette smoke. | a puff|wisp of smoke* **2** [S] an act of smoking tobacco: *There's a ten-minute break; time to have a cup of coffee and a smoke.* **3** [C] *infml* something, esp. a cigarette, that is smoked **4** [*the*+S] *infml, esp. AmE* the big city, as opposed to the country. **5 go up in smoke** *infml* to have no result; come to nothing: *They withdrew their financial support, so the whole scheme went up in smoke.* **6 There's no smoke without fire** also **Where there's smoke there's fire** If unfavourable things are being said about someone or something, they are probably at least partly true. —**~less** *adj*: *Coke is a smokeless fuel.*

smoke[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to suck or breathe in smoke from burning tobacco, i.e. cigarettes, a pipe, etc.: *I don't smoke. | I used to smoke twenty (cigarettes) a day.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Fewer people in Britain and the US smoke now because they realize it is bad for their health, although it is very common for young people to try cigarettes for a while. The government prints warnings about the dangers of smoking, e.g. lung CANCER, on cigarette packets. —see also CHAIN-SMOKE, SMOKER, SMOKING◄

2 [T] to breathe in smoke from burning an illegal drug: *students smoking pot in the sixties* **3** [I] to give off smoke: *smoking chimneys in the town's industrial area* **4** [I] to give off too much smoke, esp. because it cannot escape into the air: *a smoking fireplace* **5** [T] to preserve and give a special taste to (meat, fish, etc.) by hanging it in smoke: *smoked salmon|sausage* **6** [T] to darken with smoke, esp. by allowing smoke to settle on and cover a surface: *The sun should only be looked at through smoked glass.*

smoke sbdy./sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] to fill a place with smoke in order to force (a person, animal, etc.) to come out from hiding —compare FUMIGATE

smoke a·larm /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ also **smoke de·tec·tor** /ˈ· ·ˌ··/— *n* an electronic apparatus which, when fixed in a room, will make a loud warning sound (ALARM) when smoke is present. People are encouraged to have one in their homes, and the law in many US areas demands that one be used in every place where someone lives: *The smoke alarm suddenly went off.*

smoke-filled room /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n AmE becoming old fash* a room full of powerful men who are thought to be making important decisions, without asking other people who they consider to be less important, but who may care very much about what decisions are made

smokeless zone /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain), an area esp. a big city, where no smoke is allowed, so that only substances which produce no smoke (**smokeless fuels**) can be burned

smok·er /ˈsməʊkəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who smokes: *He's a heavy smoker.* (=smokes a lot of cigarettes) **2** a railway carriage where smoking is allowed —opposite **non-smoker**

smoke·screen /ˈsməʊkskriːn/ *n* **1** a cloud of smoke produced for hiding a place or activity from enemy sight **2** something that hides one's real intentions: *to throw up a smokescreen*

smoke sig·nal /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a signal to people some distance away made, esp. by Native Americans in former times, by repeatedly covering a smoking fire for particular periods of time and then allowing the trapped smoke to rise into the air

smoke·stack /ˈsməʊkstæk/ *n* **1** the tall chimney of a factory or ship **2** *AmE for* a FUNNEL (2)

smokestack in·dus·try /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *esp. AmE* a branch of industry that produces heavy goods or industrial materials, such as cars, ships, or steel

Smo·key the Bear /ˌsməʊki ðə ˈbeəʳ/ (in the US) an imaginary bear with many human features who represents the US Forest Service in its attempts to prevent forest fires. He is often shown wearing a hat and blue JEANS, and saying "Only *you* can prevent forest fires."

Smokey the Bear



smok·ing /ˈsməʊkɪŋ/ *n* [U] the practice or habit of sucking in tobacco smoke from cigarettes, a pipe, etc.: *The sign says "no smoking".* (=one is not allowed to smoke) | *There are a few smoking compartments* (=where one can smoke) *on this train.* —see also PASSIVE SMOKING; see SMOKE² (CULTURAL NOTE)

smok·ing gun /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n AmE* an object that suggests or shows that something bad (i.e. a crime) has happened in the place where it is found

smok·y /ˈsməʊki/ *adj* **1** filled with or producing (too much) smoke: *a smoky room|fire* **2** with the taste or appearance of smoke: *a smoky kiss* | *smoky grey eyes* —**-iness** *n* [U]

Smoky Mountains see GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

smol·der /ˈsməʊldəʳ/ *v* [I] *AmE for* SMOULDER

smooch /smuːtʃ/ *v* [I (**with**)] *infml* to kiss and hold someone or each other lovingly, esp. without concern for other people around: *They were smooching in the back row of the cinema.*

smooth¹ /smuːð/ *adj* **1** having an even surface without sharply raised or lowered places, points, lumps, etc.; not rough: *a smooth road* | *as smooth as silk* | *The tyres were old and had been worn smooth.* | *Feel this; it's as smooth as a baby's bottom!* —opposite **rough** **2** (of a liquid mixture) without lumps; evenly thick: *Beat until smooth.* —opposite **lumpy** **3** even in movement without sudden changes or breaks: *Bring the car to a smooth stop.* | *I hope you'll have a smooth flight.* —opposite **bumpy** **4** free from problems or difficulties: *a smooth journey* | *Her progress from local manageress to company director had not been smooth.* **5** not bitter or sour; pleasant in the mouth: *This sherry is very smooth.* —opposite **harsh, rough** **6** *usu. derog* (too) pleasant, polite, or untroubled in manner; avoiding or not showing difficulties; SUAVE: *I never trust these smooth salesmen.* —see also **take the rough with the smooth** (ROUGH²) —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

smooth² *v* [T] **1** [(OUT, DOWN)] to make smooth or smoother: *She smoothed out the tablecloth|smoothed the wrinkles out of the tablecloth.* | *He smoothed down his hair.* | (fig.) *This agreement will smooth the way to peace.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to rub (a liquid, cream, etc.) gently over or into a surface: *She smoothed suntan lotion over her legs.* **3** [(AWAY)] to remove (roughness) from a surface: *This face cream claims to smooth away wrinkles.* | *There are a few problems to be smoothed away before we complete the project.*

smooth sthg.↔**over** *phr v* [T] to make (difficulties) seem small or unimportant: *He managed to smooth over the bad feelings between his wife and daughter.*

smooth·ie, smoothy /ˈsmuːði/ *n infml, derog or humor* a SMOOTH¹ (6) person

smooth-talk·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj usu. derog* too pleasant and able to persuade in speech **smooth-talker** /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* : *He's a real smooth-talker.*

smor·gas·bord /ˈsmɔːgəsbɔːd‖ˈsmɔːrgəsbɔːrd/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a restaurant meal in which people serve themselves from) a large number of different dishes, esp. Scandinavian dishes **2** [C (**of**)] a variety: *From the mid-1080s, American viewers turned increasingly away from network television to the smorgasbord of choice offered by the cable television and VCRs.*

smote /səʊt/ *past tense of* SMITE

smoth·er¹ /ˈsmʌðəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** [(**with, in**)] to cover thickly or heavily: *The back window of their car was smothered in little stickers.* | *He smothered her with kisses.* **2** to keep from developing, growing, or getting out; STIFLE: *I just managed to smother a yawn.* | *They smothered all opposition.* | (fig.) *a child smothered with too much love* **3** to kill from lack of air: *He smothered his victim with a pillow.* **4** to put out or keep down (a fire) by keeping out air

smoul·der *BrE* ‖ **smol-** *AmE* /ˈsməʊldəʳ/ *v* [I] **1** to burn slowly with little or no flame **2** [(**with**)] to have, show, or be violent feelings that are kept from being expressed: *The workforce were smouldering with discontent.* | *smouldering anger|passion* | *smouldering eyes*

SMSA /ˌes em es ˈeɪ/ *n* Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area; any of a number of city areas in the US that are chosen for the purpose of gathering and comparing information about their populations, quality of life, etc. An SMSA is sometimes made up of several cities that have spread into one another.

smudge¹ /smʌdʒ/ *n* a dirty mark with unclear edges made esp. by rubbing: (fig.) *The incident in the brothel is a smudge on his character.* —**smudgy** *adj*

smudge² *v* [I;T] to make or become dirty with a smudge: *The signature was smudged and I couldn't read it.* | *The ink has smudged.* | *He smudged the paper with his dirty hands.* —compare SMEAR²

smug /smʌg/ *adj* **-gg-** *derog* too pleased with oneself; showing too much satisfaction with one's own qualities, position, etc.; COMPLACENT: *a smug smile* | *unbearably smug* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

smug·gle /ˈsmʌgəl/ *v* [T] **1** to take (esp. goods) illegally from one country to another, esp. to avoid paying the necessary tax: *to smuggle watches|cigarettes into France* | *She smuggled her notes into the examination.* | *He managed to smuggle a message out of prison to his friends.* —**~gler** *n* : *The Customs men caught the smuggler.* —**-gling** *n* [U] : *a large drug-smuggling operation*

smurr /smɜːʳ/ *n* [U] SMIRR

smut /smʌt/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a small piece of) material like dirt or SOOT that blackens or makes dark marks **2** [U] *infml* morally offensive books, stories, talk, etc. **3** [U] a FUNGUS disease of grasses and grains that turns plant parts into black dust

smut·ty /ˈsmʌti/ *adj infml* slightly morally offensive because of being concerned with TOILETS or esp. sex: *Little boys telling each other smutty jokes behind the bike sheds* | *a smutty magazine* —**-tily** *adv* —**-tiness** *n* [U]

snack¹ /snæk/ *n* an amount of food smaller than a meal that is eaten informally between meals. A snack might be anything, from a chicken leg or a HOT DOG to a bar of chocolate: *I only had time for a quick snack.* | *I'm having a* **snack attack**. (=have a strong desire for a snack.)

snack² *v* [I] to eat a snack: *Don't snack between meals.* | *snacking on potato chips*

snack bar /ˈ· ·/ *n* an informal public eating place that serves snacks

snack food /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] [*usu. pl.*] a food that is intended to be eaten as a snack, e.g. CRISPS, PEANUTS, POPCORN, etc. Such foods are usu. regarded as having very little benefit to one's health.

snaf·fle¹ /ˈsnæfəl/ *v* [T] *BrE infml* to get, esp. by deceitful means or stealing: *She snaffled some pens and paper from the office.*

snaffle² also **snaffle bit** /ˈ·· ·/— *n* a BIT² (1) made of two short joined bars, for putting in a horse's mouth

sna·fu /snæˈfuː/ *n AmE infml* a state of being wrong or unworkable

snag¹ /snæg/ *n* **1** a difficulty, esp. a hidden or unexpected

one: *Its the perfect car for me, only snag is, I can't afford it!* **2** a rough or sharp part of something that may catch and hold or cut things passing against it **3** a tear made (as if) by catching on a snag

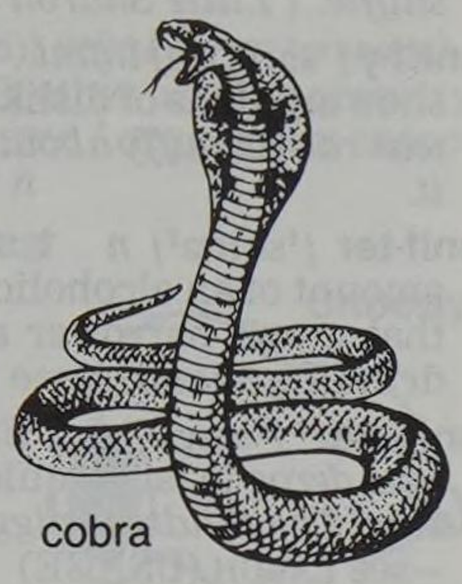
snag[2] *v* **-gg-** [T] **1** to catch on a SNAG[1] (2): *She snagged her tights on the rough edge of the chair.* **2** *AmE infml* to catch or get, esp. by quick action: *I'll try to snag the waiter next time he walks by.*

snail /sneɪl/ *n* a small plant-eating creature with a soft body, no limbs, and usu. a hard shell on its back, which moves very slowly —see picture at SLUG

snail's pace /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [S] *infml* a very slow speed or rate of activity

snake[1] /sneɪk/ *n* **1** an animal with a long thin limbless body, large mouth, and FORKED tongue, that usu. feeds on other animals and often has a poisonous bite: *The snake slithered/wriggled away.*

snake



cobra

►CULTURAL NOTE Many people in Britain and the US have a fear of snakes, even though they may never have seen a real one. In the Bible, the snake (also called a **serpent**) is the creature that persuades Eve, the first woman, to take a bite of an apple that God has forbidden Adam and Eve to eat, and so is the cause of them having to leave the perfect world of the Garden of Eden. Because of the snake's evil action, God punishes it by making it CRAWL on its BELLY for ever. This is why in Christianity the snake has a strong association with evil.◄

2 *derog* a deceitful person **3** *tech* a system in which the values of certain countries' money are allowed to vary against each other within narrow limits **4 snake in the grass** *derog, often humor* a false friend —compare SERPENT (2)

snake[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to move in a twisting way; wind (one's way or body) in moving: *The train snaked (its way) through the mountains.*

snake·bite /ˈsneɪkbaɪt/ *n* [U] the result or condition of being bitten by a poisonous snake

snake charm·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person who controls snakes, usu. by playing music, as a public entertainment. In pictures, Indian snake charmers are often shown playing a pipe, making a snake rise out of a basket.

snake oil /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* any substance sold as a medicine which is in fact worthless or harmful

snake pit /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* an uncomfortable place full of danger or trouble

snakes and lad·ders /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap. S and L*) a board game in which players move pieces according to the throw of a DICE and may move upwards and forwards along pictures of ladders but are forced downwards and backwards along pictures of snakes. Sometimes the successes and failures of life are compared to a game of snakes and ladders.

snak·y /ˈsneɪki/ *adj* like a snake, esp. in winding or twisting: *a snaky road*

snap[1] /snæp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [I;T] (usu. of something thin and stiff) to (cause to) break suddenly and sharply off or in two parts: *The branch snapped under the weight of the snow.* | *I snapped the stick in half.* | *She snapped off a piece of chocolate.* | (fig.) *My nerves finally snapped under the pressure of work.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to move so as to cause a sharp sound like something suddenly breaking: *The lid snapped shut.* **3** [I (**at**);T] to speak or say quickly, usu. in an annoyed way: *He tends to snap at people when he's got a headache.* | *"You're late!" she snapped.* | *He snapped out an order.* **4** [I (**at**)] to close the jaws quickly: *The dog was snapping at my ankles.* (=trying to bite them) **5** [T] *infml* to photograph **6 snap one's fingers** to attract attention by making a noise by moving the second finger quickly along the thumb: (fig.) *He comes running to help her whenever she snaps her fingers.* (=whenever she demands it) **7 snap one's fingers at** *BrE* to show no respect for: *As an artist she's always snapped her fingers at convention.* **8 snap out of it** *infml* [*usu. imperative*] to free oneself quickly from an unhappy or unhealthy state of mind **9 snap someone's head off** *infml* to answer someone in a sharp angry way: *I just asked a simple question; there's no need to snap my head off!* **10 snap to it** ‖ also **snap it up** *AmE*– to hurry up: *Come on, snap to it!*

snap sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to take or buy quickly and eagerly: *It's a real bargain; you should snap it up!*

snap[2] *n* **1** [C] an act or sound of snapping: *The branch broke with a snap.* | *He summoned the waiter with a snap of his fingers.* **2** [C] also **snapshot**– an informal photograph taken with a hand-held camera **3** [C] (*in comb.*) a thin dry sweet BISCUIT: *ginger snaps* **4** [U] a card game in which players lay down cards one after the other and try to be the first to notice and call out "snap" when two similar cards are laid down together **5** [U] *infml* eager effort; ZIP: *Come on, put some snap in it!* **6** [S] *AmE infml* something that is very easy to do **7** *AmE for* PRESS-STUD **8 snap, crackle, and pop** a phrase used in advertisements for Rice Krispies, a breakfast CEREAL, describing the noise it makes when milk is poured on it —see also COLD SNAP

snap[3] *adj* [A] done quickly and without warning or long consideration: *The prime minister called a snap election to take place in four weeks' time.* | *It's risky to make snap judgments.*

snap[4] *interj BrE* **1** *infml* (said when one notices two similar things together): *Snap! You're wearing the same hat as me!* **2** (said in the game of SNAP (4) when one notices that two similar cards have been laid down)

snap·drag·on /ˈsnæpˌdrægən/ also **antirrhinum**– *n* a garden plant with white, red, or yellow flowers

snap fas·ten·er /ˈ· ˌ···/ also **snap but·ton** /ˈ· ˌ··/– *n AmE for* PRESS-STUD —see picture at FASTENER

snap·per /ˈsnæpəʳ/ *n* a fish found in warm seas, often used as food

snap·pish /ˈsnæpɪʃ/ *adj* speaking habitually in a rude annoyed way; bad-tempered —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

snap·py /ˈsnæpi/ *adj infml* **1** stylish; fashionable: *a snappy dresser* (=someone who wears stylish clothes) **2 make it snappy** also **look snappy** *BrE*– (*usu. imperative*) to hurry up —**-pily** *adv* —**-piness** *n* [U]

snap·shot /ˈsnæpʃɒt‖-ʃɑːt/ *n* a SNAP[2] (2)

snare[1] /ˈsneəʳ/ *n* **1** a trap for catching an animal, esp. an apparatus with a rope or wire which catches the animal's foot: *a rabbit snare* **2** also **snares** *pl.*– a situation or course of action that may lead to one being trapped or deceived

snare[2] *v* [T] **1** to catch (as if) in a snare **2** *infml* to get by skilful action: *You've snared a good job there!*

snare drum /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small flat military kind of drum used also in bands, having metal springs stretched across the bottom to allow a continuous sound

snarl[1] /snɑːl‖snɑːrl/ *v* **1** [I (**at**)] (of an animal) to make a low angry sound while showing the teeth: *The dog snarled at me.* **2** [I(**at**);T] to speak or say in an angry bad-tempered way: *"Shut up!" he snarled.*

snarl[2] *n* an act or sound of snarling; angry GROWL: *He gave a vicious snarl.*

snarl[3] *v* [T (UP) *usu. pass.*] to twist or mix together so as to make movement difficult: *Traffic was badly snarled (up) near the accident.*

snarl-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* a confused state, esp. of traffic

snatch[1] /snætʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to take hold of (something) with a sudden quick often violent movement; GRAB: *Don't snatch, children; ask for it nicely.* | *The thief snatched her handbag and ran.* | *The boy was snatched from his home by two armed men.* **2** [T] to take quickly as chance allows, sometimes wrongfully or without permission: *I snatched a look at the answers while the teacher was out of the room.* | *He managed to snatch an hour's sleep on the train.* —~**er** *n* : *There's a gang of bag snatchers* (=people who snatch HANDBAGS) *working the park.*

snatch at sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to try to snatch: *He snatched at the ball but dropped it.* | *She snatched wildly at the branches as she fell.* **2** to accept or try to get eagerly: *She was always ready to snatch at any opportunity for advancement.*

snatch[2] *n* **1** [(**at**)] an act of snatching (at) something: *He made a snatch at the piece of paper, but too late – it had*

blown away. **2** [*usu. pl.*] a short period of time or activity: *I slept in snatches* (=waking up often) *during the night.* **3** [(**of**)] a short and incomplete part of something that is seen or heard: *to overhear a snatch of conversation*

snatch squad /ˈ· ·/ *n* a group of policemen who go into a crowd of people and ARREST someone quickly and suddenly

snaz·zy /ˈsnæzi/ *adj infml* good-looking or attractive in a neat stylish or showy way: *a snazzy suit* —**-zily** *adv*: *snazzily dressed*

sneak[1] /sniːk/ *v* **snuck** /snʌk/*AmE* **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to go quietly and secretly, so as not to be seen: *I managed to sneak past the guard.* | *We sneaked round to the back door.* **2** [T] *infml* to steal secretly or cleverly: *The boy was caught sneaking an apple from a shop.* | (fig.) *I managed to sneak a look at the report on her desk.* **3** [I (**on**)] *BrE derog sl* (used by schoolchildren) to give information, esp. to a teacher, about the wrongdoings of others

sneak up *phr v* [I (**on, behind**)] to come near silently, keeping out of sight until the last moment: *Don't sneak up on me like that! You gave me quite a shock!*

sneak[2] *n* **1** *BrE derog sl* a person who SNEAKS[1] (3) **2** *AmE* a person who SNEAKS[1] (1) or sneaks up

sneak[3] *adj* coming quickly or unexpectedly: *a sneak attack*

sneak·er /ˈsniːkəʳ/ *n AmE* an informal shoe with a rubber SOLE[1] (2) and leather or strong cloth around the foot —see PAIR (USAGE) and see picture at SHOE

sneak·ing /ˈsniːkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** secret; not openly expressed: *I don't like her at all, but I can't help having a sneaking admiration for what she's done.* **2** (of a feeling or belief) not proved but probably right: *I had a sneaking suspicion the plan wouldn't work.*

sneak pre·view /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [(**of**)] a chance to look at something new, esp. a film, before anyone else or any member of the public has seen it

sneak thief /ˈ· ·/ *n* a thief who steals things quietly and quickly and without using force, esp. from public places

sneak·y /ˈsniːki/ *adj derog* acting or done secretly and deceitfully, esp. in a clever way —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

sneer[1] /snɪəʳ/ *v* [I] **1** to smile or laugh with a curl of the lips; to express proud dislike and disrespect **2** [(**at**)] to speak or behave as if something is not worthy of serious attention: *Don't sneer at their religion.* —**~ingly** *adv*

sneer[2] *n* a sneering look or remark

sneeze[1] /sniːz/ *v* [I] **1** to have a sudden uncontrolled burst of air out of the nose, usu. caused by discomfort in the nose: *The dust made him sneeze.* | *The baby keeps sneezing – she must be getting a cold.* | *a fit of sneezing*

►CULTURAL NOTE When a person sneezes, someone in the room might say "Bless you!" or "Gesundheit!", and the person might reply "Thank you."◄

2 not to be sneezed at *infml, often humor* worthy of consideration; not to be considered unfavourably: *An offer of £1000 tax-free is not to be sneezed at.*

sneeze[2] *n* an act, sound, etc., of sneezing. The sound made by a sneeze is expressed in writing by the word "Atishoo!", or sometimes "Achoo!"

snick /snɪk/ *v* [T] *BrE* **1** to make a small cut or mark on; NICK **2** (in cricket) to hit (the ball) off the edge of the BAT —**snick** *n*

snick·er /ˈsnɪkəʳ/ *v, n esp. AmE for* SNIGGER —see LAUGH (USAGE)

Snick·ers /ˈsnɪkəz‖-ərz/ *n tdmk* a chocolate bar with PEANUTS and CARAMEL inside

snide /snaɪd/ *adj* expressing an unfavourable opinion in a way that is usu. indirect but unpleasant and hurts people's feelings: *He was always making snide remarks about her cooking.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

sniff[1] /snɪf/ *v* **1** [I] to draw air into the nose with a sound, esp. in short repeated actions. Many British people consider it rude to sniff in public: *His mother told him to stop sniffing and blow his nose.* **2** [I(**at**);T] to do this in order to discover a smell in or on: *He sniffed the crisp morning air.* | *The dog sniffed at the lamppost.* —compare SMELL[1] **3** [T] to say in a proud complaining way: *"I expected something rather nicer," she sniffed.* —see also SNIFFY **4** [T] also **snort**— to take (a harmful drug) through the nose: *sniffing cocaine* —see also GLUE SNIFFING —**~er** *n*

sniff at sthg. *phr v* [T] to dislike or refuse proudly: *Such a good offer is not to be sniffed at.*

sniff out sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to discover or find out (as if) by smelling: *Police sent dogs into the crowd to sniff out drugs.* | (fig.) *trying to sniff out the cause of the problem*

sniff[2] *n* an act or sound of sniffing: *He gave a loud sniff.* 'Is this milk OK? Here, have a sniff.

sniffer dog /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a dog that has been trained by the police to find drugs and explosives by smelling them

snif·fle[1] /ˈsnɪfəl/ *v* [I] to sniff repeatedly in order to keep liquid from running out of the nose, esp. when one is crying or has a cold: *For goodness sake, stop sniffling!* —**-fler** *n*

sniffle[2] *n* **1** an act or sound of sniffling **2** also **sniffles** *pl.*— *infml* the signs of a cold in the nose; liquid blocking or running from the nose: *It's not a real cold, only a sniffle.* | *Little Sharon's got the sniffles again.*

sniff·y /ˈsnɪfi/ *adj infml* **1** unpleasantly proud by habit **2** showing signs of dislike or disapproval; DISDAINFUL: *She was rather sniffy about my suggestion, so I didn't pursue it.*

snif·ter /ˈsnɪftəʳ/ *n* **1** *old-fash infml, esp. BrE* a small amount of an alcoholic drink **2** *AmE* a bowl-like glass that grows narrower at the top, on a short STEM[1], for drinking BRANDY —see picture at GLASS

snig·ger[1] /ˈsnɪgəʳ/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **snicker** *esp. AmE*— *v* [I (**at**)] *usu. derog* to laugh quietly or secretly in a disrespectful way: *The children sniggered at the old lady's strange hat.* —see LAUGH (USAGE)

snigger[2] *esp. BrE* ‖ **snicker** *esp. AmE*— *n usu. derog* an act or sound of sniggering

snip[1] /snɪp/ *n* **1** [C] a short quick cut with scissors: *Make a snip in the cloth here.* **2** [S] *BrE infml* an article for sale at a surprisingly cheap price; BARGAIN: *At £20 for a dozen, they're a snip.* **3 have the snip** *BrE infml* to have a VASECTOMY —see also SNIPS

snip[2] *v* **-pp-** [T (OFF)] to cut (as if) with scissors, esp. in short quick strokes: *She snipped the string and untied the parcel.* | *He snipped off the corner of the packet.*

snipe[1] /snaɪp/ *v* [I (**at**)] **1** to shoot from a hidden position at unprotected people, such as an enemy not in battle **2** to say nasty things; make an unpleasant attack in words —**sniper** *n* : *The army patrol was picked off by snipers.*

snipe[2] *n* **snipe** *or* **snipes** **1** a bird with a very long thin beak that lives in wet places and is often shot for sport **2** *AmE derog* a strongly disliked person

snip·pet /ˈsnɪpɨt/ *n* [(**of**)] *infml* a small bit of something, esp. a short piece from something spoken or written: *I managed to overhear a few interesting snippets of information.*

snip·py /ˈsnɪpi/ *adj AmE infml* quick to show anger, offence, or disobedience

snips /snɪps/ *BrE*‖**tin shears** *AmE*— *n* [P] heavy scissors for cutting metal sheets —see PAIR (USAGE)

snit /snɪt/ *n* [S] *AmE infml* an angry state of mind, esp. one which the speaker thinks is unnecessary: *She's been* **in a snit** *since I took the car without telling her.*

snitch[1] /snɪtʃ/ *v infml* **1** [I (**on**)] *derog* to tell about the wrongdoings of a friend **2** [T] to steal (esp. something unimportant and of small value) by taking quickly

snitch[2] *n BrE infml, usu. humor* nose

sniv·el /ˈsnɪvəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I] to act or speak in a weak complaining crying way: *I've warned you. If you fail, don't come snivelling back to me.* | *a snivelling coward* —**~ler** *BrE* ‖ **~er** *AmE n*

snob /snɒb‖snɑːb/ *n derog* **1** a person who pays too much attention to social class, and dislikes or keeps away from people of a lower class **2** a person who is too proud of having special knowledge or judgment in the stated subject, and thinks that something liked by many people is no good: *a musical snob who only likes Mozart* | *It's not really a very good make of car, but it does have a certain* **snob value/snob appeal**. (=it is greatly admired by a particular set of people)

snob·be·ry /ˈsnɒbəri‖ˈsnɑːb-/ *n* [U] the attitude and behaviour of snobs

snob·bish /ˈsnɒbɪʃ‖ˈsnɑː-/ also **snob·by** /ˈsnɒbi‖ˈsnɑːbi/— *adj* typical of a snob, esp. in being too proud about one's social position: *a snobbish attitude* | *Don't be so snobbish!* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

snog /snɒg‖snɑːg/ *v* **-gg-** [I] *BrE infml* to hold and kiss each

other, esp. for a period of time; a word used by young people —**snog** *n*

snook /snu:k‖snʊk, snu:k/ *n* see **cock a snook (at)** (COCK²)

snoo·ker¹ /ˈsnu:kəʳ‖ˈsnʊ-/ *n* [U] a game played on a table covered in green cloth with 15 red balls, six balls of other colours, and a white ball. One hits the white ball with a CUE (=a long stick) onto the coloured balls, in a particular order, so that they fall into any of six POCKETS (=holes) round the table in order to make points. It is played esp. by men and is very popular in Britain — compare BILLIARDS, POOL² (3) —see REFEREE (USAGE)

snooker² *v* [T *often pass.*] *BrE infml* to put into a situation in which one can no longer take action: *The council has turned down our application, so now we're really snookered.*

snoop¹ /snu:p/ *v* [I (ABOUT, AROUND)] *infml derog* to search, look into, or concern oneself with other people's property or affairs without permission; PRY: *I caught him snooping around in my office.* —**~er** *n*

snoop² *n infml* an act of snooping

Snoop·y /ˈsnu:pi/ a CARTOON dog in a COMIC STRIP called *Peanuts*

Snoopy



Snoopy © 1958

snoot·y /ˈsnu:ti/ *adj infml* proudly rude; HAUGHTY: *He's too snooty to associate with his old friends now he's rich.* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

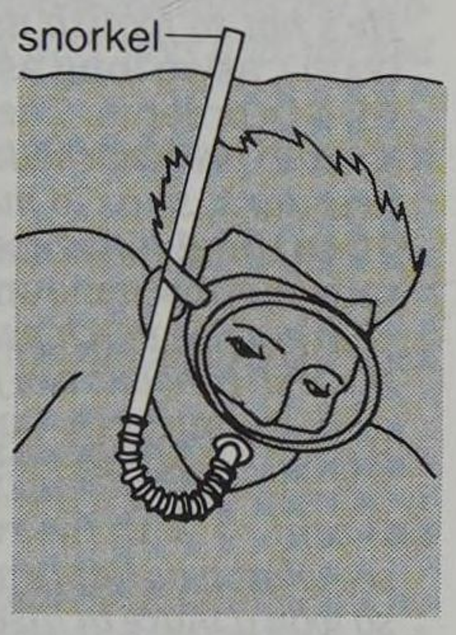
snooze /snu:z/ *v* [I] *infml* to have a short sleep; DOZE — **snooze** *n*

snore¹ /snɔ:ʳ/ *v* [I] to breathe noisily through the nose and mouth while asleep: *He was snoring heavily.* —**snorer** *n*

snore² *n* a noisy way of breathing when asleep; a noise of snoring: *deafening snores*

snor·kel /ˈsnɔ:kəl‖-ɔ:r-/ *n* a tube **a** with a MOUTHPIECE, used for allowing a swimmer under water to breathe **b** for carrying air to a SUBMARINE —**snorkel** *v* [I] : *to go snorkeling*

snorkel



snort¹ /snɔ:t‖snɔ:rt/ *v* **1** [I] to make a rough noise by forcing air down the nose: *The horse snorted and stamped its hoof impatiently.* **2** [I;T] to express (esp. impatience or anger, or sometimes amusement) (as if) by this sound: *"Certainly not," he snorted.* | *She snorted contemptuously with derision.* **3** [T] *sl for* SNIFF¹ (4): *She'd been snorting cocaine.*

snort² *n* **1** an act or sound of snorting: *He gave a snort of derision/laughter.* **2** *old-fash infml* a drink of strong alcohol taken with one act of swallowing

snort·er /ˈsnɔ:təʳ‖-ɔ:r-/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE old-fash infml* something that is unusually fine or esp. violent, powerful, difficult, etc.

snot /snɒt‖snɑ:t/ *n infml, not polite* **1** [U] the thick MUCUS (=liquid) produced in the nose **2** [C] a SNOTTY (1) person

snot·ty /ˈsnɒti‖ˈsnɑ:ti/ *adj infml derog* **1** also **snotty-nosed** /ˈ·· ·/— (esp. of a young person) trying to act as if one is important; rude: *I'm not going to be told what to do by some snotty-nosed little clerk!* **2** wet and dirty with MUCUS: *a snotty nose*

snout /snaʊt/ *n* the long nose of any of various animals, such as a pig —see picture at HEDGEHOG

snow¹ /snəʊ/ *n* **1** [U] water in the air which has frozen and falls in the form of soft white FLAKES (=pieces) in cold weather, often covering the ground thickly: *Some mountains are covered in snow all year round.* | *The kids were playing in the snow.* | *Many roads were blocked by deep snow.* | *crisp/mushy snow*

►CULTURAL NOTE Snow is thought of in connection with winter and esp. Christmas. —compare SLUSH; see RAIN (USAGE) and see colour picture on page 1212◄

2 [C] a fall of snow: *one of the heaviest snows this winter*
3 [U] *sl* COCAINE in powder form

snow² *v* **1** [*it*+I] (of snow) to fall: *Look! It's snowing.* **2** [T] *AmE infml* to persuade or win the respect of (someone), esp. by making oneself sound important: *I was really snowed by his smooth manners and polite talk.*

snow sbdy./sthg.↔**in/up** *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] (of snow) to pile up on the ground, roads, etc., so as to prevent travel to or from (a place) or by (a person): *We were snowed in for three days last winter.* | *The village was snowed up twice last year.*

snow sbdy.↔**under** *phr v* [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] to cause to have more of something than one can deal with: *I'm completely snowed under with work at the moment.*

snow·ball¹ /ˈsnəʊbɔ:l/ *n* **1** a ball pressed or rolled together from snow, as thrown at each other by children: *to have a snowball fight* **2 a snowball's chance in hell** [*usu. in negatives*] *infml* any chance at all (of succeeding, lasting, etc.): *He doesn't have a snowball's chance in hell of getting that job.*

snowball² *v* [I] (of a plan, problem, etc.) to grow bigger at a faster and faster rate

snow blind·ness /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] eye pain and (near) blindness for a time, caused by continuously looking at snow in bright sunlight —**snow-blind** *adj*

snow·bound /ˈsnəʊbaʊnd/ *adj* blocked or kept indoors by heavy snow: *snowbound traffic*

snow-capped /ˈ· ·/ *adj lit* (of a mountain) covered in snow at the top

Snow·don /ˈsnəʊdn/ a mountain in Wales. It is the highest point in England and Wales. —see colour map on page 818

Snowdon, Lord also **the Earl of Snowdon** *fml*— (1930–) an English photographer who was married to Princess Margaret, the sister of the British Queen. They divorced (DIVORCE) in 1978.

Snow·do·ni·a /snəʊˈdəʊniə/ a mountainous area in N Wales which is a National Park

snow·drift /ˈsnəʊˌdrɪft/ *n* a deep bank or mass of snow piled up by the wind: *The car was buried in a snowdrift.*

snow·drop /ˈsnəʊdrɒp‖-drɑ:p/ *n* a European plant with a small white flower which appears in the early spring, often when snow is still on the ground —see picture at FLOWER

snow·fall /ˈsnəʊfɔ:l/ *n* **1** [C] a fall of snow **2** [S;U] the amount of snow that falls: *This area has an average snowfall of eight centimetres per year.*

snow·field /ˈsnəʊfi:ld/ *n* a wide stretch of ground always covered in snow

snow·flake /ˈsnəʊfleɪk/ *n* **1** a small flat six-sided bit of frozen water that falls as snow **2** a small falling mass of snowflakes

snow job /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE sl* an act of deceiving someone, esp. by giving them lots of misinformation

snow·line /ˈsnəʊlaɪn/ [*the*] the level beyond which snow never melts

snow·man /ˈsnəʊmæn/ *n* **-men** /men/ a figure of a person made out of large balls of snow, esp. by children. A snowman will often have pieces of coal, etc., for its eyes, mouth, and buttons, and a CARROT for a nose. In pictures it is often shown wearing a hat and SCARF. —see also ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN and see colour picture on page 1212

snow·mo·bile /ˈsnəʊməbi:l‖-məʊ-/ *n* a small vehicle with a motor that moves over snow or ice on an endless metal track instead of wheels —**-biling** *n* : *We're going snowmobiling this weekend.*

snow pea /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* MANGETOUT

snow·plough *BrE* ‖ **-plow** *AmE* /ˈsnəʊplaʊ/ *n* an apparatus or vehicle for pushing snow off roads or railways

snow route /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* an important route in a town or city from which cars must be removed when it snows, so that the road can be cleared for traffic: *I got a ticket for leaving the car on a snow route.*

snow·shoe /ˈsnəʊʃu:/ *n* either of a pair of light flat frames with narrow bands of leather stretched across it, worn on the foot to allow a person to walk on snow without sinking in

snow·storm /ˈsnəʊstɔːm‖-ɔːrm/ *n* a very heavy fall of snow, esp. blown by strong winds

snow·suit /ˈsnəʊsuːt, -sjuːt ‖ -suːt/ *n AmE* a usu. one-piece warm piece of clothing worn by children, esp. when playing in the snow

snow tire /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a special car tyre with deep TREAD[2] (2) (=pattern of lines) or with STUDS[1] (2) (=pointed hard lumps that stick out) used when driving on snow or ice in order to grip the road better

snow-white /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* as white as snow; pure white

Snow White



Snow White the main character in an old FAIRYTALE (=story for children). Snow White is a beautiful princess who has a jealous STEPMOTHER. The stepmother owns a magic mirror which when asked "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of us all?" always answers that she is the most beautiful, until one day it says "Snow White". The stepmother is very angry and sends Snow White into the forest to be killed. Snow White does not die, but finds and lives with seven DWARFS. Her stepmother tries to kill her with a poisoned apple, but instead of dying she goes to sleep until a prince kisses her and wakes her, and they live happily ever after: *Charlie wore a dainty little green suit that made him look like one of Snow White's dwarfs.* —see also SEVEN DWARFS

snow·y /ˈsnəʊi/ *adj* **1** full of snow or snowing: *Today will be snowy in many areas.* **2** *esp. lit* pure (white): *snowy (white) hair* —**-iness** *n* [U]

SNP /ˌes en ˈpiː/ also **Scottish National Party, Scot Nats** *infml*– [*the*] a Scottish political party which wants Scotland to be independent from England

Snr *written abbrev. for:* SENIOR: *James Taylor, Snr*

snub[1] /snʌb/ *v* **-bb-** [T] to treat (someone) rudely, esp. by intentionally paying no attention to them: *I tried to make a suggestion but she snubbed me.*

snub[2] *n* an act of snubbing someone

snub[3] *adj* [A] (of a nose) flat and short; STUBBY

snub-nosed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having a snub nose

snuck /snʌk/ *AmE past tense & past participle of* SNEAK[1]

snuff[1] /snʌf/ *n* [U] **1** tobacco made into powder for breathing into the nose: *a pinch of snuff* **2 up to snuff** *old-fash infml* having the necessary ability or quality

snuff[2] *v* [T (OUT)] **1** to put out (a candle or candle flame) by pressing the burning part with one's fingers or with a snuffer **2 snuff it** *BrE infml* to die

snuff sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] to put a sudden end to: *It was tragic to think of a young life so needlessly snuffed out.*

snuff[3] *v* [I;T] (esp. of an animal) to draw (air or a smell) into the nose with a sound; SNIFF

snuff·er /ˈsnʌfəʳ/ *n* a tool with a small bell-shaped end on a handle, for putting out candles

snuf·fle /ˈsnʌfəl/ *v* to make repeated small noises through the nose: *The pigs were snuffling 'round the trough.*

snug[1] /snʌg/ **-gg-** *adj* **1** *apprec* giving or enjoying warmth, comfort, peace, protection, etc.; COSY: *He showed us into a snug little sitting room with a fire burning.* | *The children were tucked up snug and warm in bed.* **2** (of clothes) **a** fitting closely and comfortably: *This jacket is a nice snug fit.* **b** fitting too closely: *The dress was a bit snug under the arms.* **3 as snug as a bug in a rug** *infml* very comfortable: *You'll be as snug as a bug in a rug in your new sleeping bag.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

snug[2] *n BrE* a small room or enclosed place for sitting privately, esp. in a PUB

snug·gle /ˈsnʌgəl/ *v* [I+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* to settle into a warm comfortable position: *Snuggle up to me and I'll keep you warm.* | *The children had snuggled down in bed.*

so[1] /səʊ/ *adv* **1** to such a (great) degree: *Don't be so silly!* | *He was so fat (that) he couldn't get through the door.* | *He couldn't get through the door, he was so fat.* | *I ate so much food (that) I was almost sick.* | *He saw so many new things he couldn't remember them all.* | *I've never been so poor as not to be able to afford a meal.* | *Stop telling me to hurry up! I can only go so fast.* | *(fml) I've never seen so beautiful a child.* (=such a beautiful child) | *You mustn't worry so.* —see SUCH (USAGE) **2** (used in place of something stated already, esp. after a verb marked [+(*that*)]): *He hopes he'll win and I hope so too.* | *If you're going to go out you'd better do so quickly.* | *Are you married? If so* (=if you are), *give your wife's name.* | *If you say so I'll have to believe it.* | *Martha's got a job, or so she tells me.* | *"Is it interesting?" "Yes, more so* (=more interesting) *than I'd expected."* | *He was angry and quite rightly so.* (=he was right to be angry) | *"Have we missed the start of the film?" "I'm afraid so."* —compare NOT (2) **3** (usu. followed by **be, have, do,** or a verb like **will, can,** or **should** and then its subject) in the same way; also; LIKEWISE: *I'd like another drink, and so would John.* (=John would like another drink too) | *"Ann can play the piano." "So can I!"* (compare *"Ann can't play the piano." "Nor*|*Neither can I."* (=I, also, can't play the piano.) | *(Just) as the French like their wine, so the English like their beer.* **4** in this way; in that way: *First, you turn the engine on, so.*| *"I've known him since he was so high" she said, holding out her arm to indicate a height of a few feet.*| *(infml) Cut up the apples* **like so.** **5** (followed by **there** or a PRONOUN subject and then **be, have, do,** or a verb like **will, can,** or **should**) certainly; yes; it is true: *"There's a fly in your coffee." "So there is!"* | *"Look, your wife has just come in." "So she has."* **6** *esp. polite* very: *We're so glad you could come!* | *Thank you; you've been so (very) kind.* | *(infml) She's* **ever so** *nice!* **7** *fml* therefore: *These applications are past the expiry date, and so void.* **8** *AmE or dial BrE* (used esp. by children, for answering a negative charge or statement): *"I didn't do it." "You did so! You did so do it!"* **9 so** … **as** (*usu. in questions or negatives*) as … as: *He's not so foolish as I thought.* —see also **as**/**so far as** (FAR[1]), **as**/**so long as** (LONG[2]); see AS (USAGE) **10 so as to: a** in order to: *The desks are kept some distance apart, so as to prevent cheating.* **b** in such a way as to: *The day was dark, so as to make a good photograph hard to get.* **11 so long!** *infml* goodbye! **12 so many**/**much: a** a certain number/amount (not stated exactly): *We make a charge of so much per day.* **b** an amount equal to; all: *All these silly books are just so much waste paper!* —see also **and so on**/**forth** (AND), **even so** (EVEN[1]), **so much for** (MUCH[2]), **just so** (JUST[1]), **or so** (OR)

so[2] *conj* **1** with the result that: *It was dark, so I couldn't see what was happening.* | *She wrote a famous book, and so won a place in history.* **2** therefore: *I had a headache, so I went to bed.* | *I'm busy today, so can you come back tomorrow?* **3** with the purpose (that): *I packed him a little food so (that) he wouldn't get hungry.* **4** (used at the beginning of a sentence) **a** (with weak meaning): *So here we are again.* **b** (to express discovery): *So that's what you've been up to while I've been away!* **c** what if?; what does it matter that?: *So, I made a mistake. It's not the end of the world!* **5 so what?** *infml* why is that important?; why should I care?: *"He says he doesn't like you." "So what?"*

so[3] *adj* [F] **1** in accordance with actual facts; true: *You know very well that just isn't so.* | *Is that really so?* **2** (used in place of an adjective already stated): *Of all the careless people in the office no one is more so than Bill.* | *He's clever – probably too much so for his own good.* **3** arranged exactly and tidily: *If everything isn't* **just**/**exactly so,** *he gets angry.* —see also SO-SO

so[4]**, soh, sol** *n* [S;U] the fifth note in the SOL-FA musical SCALE

soak[1] /səʊk/ *v* **1** [I;T (**in**)] to (cause to) remain in or be completely covered by a liquid, esp. so as to become soft or completely wet: *Leave the dirty clothes to soak.* | *First, soak the beans in water for two hours.* | *a rag soaked in petrol* —see also SOAKED **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*; T *usu. pass.*] (of a liquid) to enter (a solid) through the small openings of a surface: *The ink had soaked through the thin paper onto the picture beneath.* | *a rain-soaked field* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv*/

prep, esp. OUT] to remove by soaking: *to soak out a stain | to soak a label off a jar* **4** [T] *infml derog* to charge a very high amount of money to: *They really soak the tourists in that restaurant.*

soak sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] to draw in (a liquid) through a surface: *He got out his handkerchief to soak up the blood.| The ground soaked up the rain.* | (fig.) *We sat on the beach soaking up the sun.* | (fig.) *to soak up information*

soak[2] *n* **1** an act or state of soaking: *I enjoy a good long soak in the bath after a hard day's work.* **2** *BrE humor derog* a person who is often or usually drunk (esp. in the phrase **old soak**)

soaked /səʊkt/ *adj* [F] **1** thoroughly wet, esp. from rain; SODDEN: *You poor thing, you're* **soaked to the skin!** | *Your clothes are soaked through!* **2 soaked in/with** full of; steeped (STEEP[2]) in: *a place soaked in history*

soak·ing /ˈsəʊkɪŋ/ *adv, adj* very wet

soaking so·lu·tion /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] a liquid into which one puts CONTACT LENSes when one is not wearing them

so-and-so /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n* **so-and-sos** **1** [U] someone or something; a certain one not named: *Meetings are always like that, with so-and-so saying it's a splendid idea, so-and-so saying it'll never work, etc.* —compare SUCH AND SUCH **2** [C] *euph* (used instead of a stronger word like BASTARD) an unpleasant, annoying, etc., person: *John's usually nice enough but he can be a (right) so-and-so at times.*

soap[1] /səʊp/ *n* **1** [U] a usu. solid substance that produces a LATHER (=soft white mass) when rubbed with water and is used for cleaning, esp. the body: *I never use soap on my face – it makes my skin too dry.* | *a bar|cake|tablet of soap in the soap dish* | *toilet soap* (=with a pleasant smell, for washing the face and hands) | *a box of* **soap flakes** *for washing clothes* —compare DETERGENT; see also SOFT SOAP **2** [C] *infml for* SOAP OPERA

soap[2] *v* [T] to rub soap on or over: *Will you soap my back for me?* —see also SOFT-SOAP

Soap, Joe see JOE BLOGGS

soap·box /ˈsəʊpbɒks‖-bɑːks/ *n* **on/off one's soapbox** *infml* stating/no longer stating one's strongly-held opinions loudly and forcefully: *Whenever anyone mentions the subject of meat he gets on his soapbox and says how wicked and unhealthy meat-eating is.*

soap bub·ble /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a ball of air enclosed by a thin skin of soap

soap dish /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small dish or container, put on a WASHBASIN, into which soap is placed

soap·flakes /ˈsəʊpfleɪks/ *n* [P] small thin pieces of soap used for washing delicate clothes

soap-on-a-rope /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* a piece of soap on a bit of string which one can hang up conveniently while having a SHOWER[1] (3a)

soap op·e·ra /ˈ· ˌ···/ also **soap** *infml*– *n* a television or radio programme about the continuing daily life and troubles of characters in it, which is broadcast regularly, e.g. two or three times a week, or sometimes every day. In both the US and Britain there are soap operas that have been running for 20 years or more. Most people either like or strongly dislike soap operas. —compare HORSE OPERA; see also CORONATION STREET, DALLAS, EASTENDERS, NEIGHBOURS

soap·stone /ˈsəʊpstəʊn/ *n* [U] a soft stone that feels like soap, from which TALCUM POWDER is made

soap·suds /ˈsəʊpsʌdz/ *n* [P] SUDS

soap·y /ˈsəʊpi/ *adj* **1** containing or full of soap: *Wash it well in soapy water.* **2** like soap: *This cheese has a rather soapy taste.* **3** *infml derog* falsely or too pleasant; SLIMY —**-iness** *n* [U]

soar /sɔːr/ *v* [I] **1 a** to fly, esp. at a great height without moving the wings: *The eagles soared high above the valleys.* **b** (of a GLIDER) to fly on rising currents of warm air **2** to rise rapidly or to a very high level: *The rocket soared into the sky.* | *The temperature soared to 80°.* | *soaring prices* **3** [*not in progressive forms*] to be very high, esp. so as to give one a feeling of splendid power: *The cliffs soar 500 feet into the air.*

sob[1] /sɒb‖sɑːb/ *v* **-bb-** **1** [I;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to cry while making short bursts of sound as one breathes in, because of sadness or fear: *A little girl was sitting sobbing in the corner.* | *She sobbed herself to sleep.* (=sobbed until she fell asleep) | (*infml*) *to sob one's heart out* (=very strongly) **2** [T (OUT)] to say or tell while sobbing: *He sobbed out the whole sad story.* —**~bingly** *adv*

sob[2] *n* an act or sound of sobbing: *to let out a heavy protracted sob*

S.O.B. /ˌes əʊ ˈbiː/ *n taboo* SON-OF-A-BITCH

so·ber[1] /ˈsəʊbəʳ/ *adj* **1** not under the influence of alcohol; not drunk: *I've never seen him sober.* —compare DRUNK[2] **2** *rather fml* thoughtful, serious, or solemn; not silly: *On more sober reflection, I resolved to turn down the offer.* **3** *fml* not decorative or brightly-coloured —**~ly** *adv*

sober[2] *v* [I;T (DOWN)] to make or become serious or thoughtful: *She's sobered down a lot as she's got older.* | *a sobering thought|reminder*

sober up *phr v* [I;T (=**sober** sbdy. ↔ **up**)] to make or become sober; get or be rid of the effect of alcohol: *I hope this coffee will sober me up.* | *He sobered up enough to drive home.*

So·bers /ˈsəʊbəz‖-bərz/, **Gar·y** /ˈgæri/ (1936–) a West Indian cricketer considered to be one of the best of all time

so·bri·e·ty /səˈbraɪəti/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being sober

so·bri·quet /ˈsəʊbrɪkeɪ/ also **soubriquet**– *n lit* an unofficial name or title; NICKNAME

sob sto·ry /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n infml derog* a story intended to make the hearer or reader cry, feel pity, or feel sorry

Soc. *n written abbrev. for* SOCIETY

so·ca /ˈsəʊkə/ *n* [U] a style of popular music which combines SOUL MUSIC and CALYPSO

so-called /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] *often derog* commonly called or named so, but often improperly or undeservedly: *The so-called expert on international affairs turned out to be a young research student.* | *so-called Christians who show no love to anyone*

soc·cer /ˈsɒkəʳ‖ˈsɑː-/ *n* [U] FOOTBALL (1)

so·cia·ble[1] /ˈsəʊʃəbəl/ *adj* fond of being with others; enjoying social life; friendly: *a pleasant, sociable couple* —opposite **unsociable** —**-bly** *adv* —**-bility** /ˌsəʊʃəˈbɪlɪ̰ti/ *n* [U]

▷ USAGE It is better to use **sociable,** rather than **social,** to mean "cheerful and friendly": *to spend a* **sociable** *evening drinking*. Use **social** to mean **a** "connected with society": **social** *history*, or **b** "connected with living in a group and meeting people": *her busy* **social** *life.*◁

sociable[2] *n AmE for* SOCIAL[2]

so·cial[1] /ˈsəʊʃəl/ *adj* **1** of human society, its organization, or quality of life: *We talked about various social questions, such as unemployment and education.* | *social inequalities* | *social trends* —see SOCIETAL (USAGE) **2** based on rank in society (sometimes different from wealth or political power): *friends of his own social level* —see also SOCIAL CLASS, SOCIAL MOBILITY **3 a** helping to form good relationship with friends **b** of good relationships with friends: *A little social drinking does no harm, but beware of drinking alone.* | *poor social skills* (=poor ability to form relationships) —see also SOCIAL LIFE **4** [A] intended for friendly or non-business meetings: *Our firm has a good social club.* **5** forming groups or living together by nature: *Ants are social insects.* **6** *infml* fond of being with others; sociable: *I'm not feeling very social this evening.* —see also ANTISOCIAL, UNSOCIAL; see SOCIABLE (USAGE) —**~ly** *adv* : *drinking within socially acceptable limits*

social[2] ‖ also **sociable** *AmE*– *n old-fash* a planned informal friendly gathering of members of a group, club, or church

Social and Lib·e·ral Dem·o·crats /ˌ·· · ˌ··· ˈ···/ [*the*+P] the formal title of the Liberal Democrats —see LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Social Chap·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **European Social Chapter** – [*the*] a document produced by the EUROPEAN COMMUNITY and agreed upon by all member states except the United Kingdom (and therefore not legally in force) which contains details of the most important employment and social rights that should be available in member countries. The document covers areas such as freedom of movement, employment and payment, health and safety, living and working conditions, equal treatment between men and women, protection of children and young people and a number of other things.

Social class in Britain

British society is considered to be divided into three main groups of classes – the UPPER CLASS, the MIDDLE CLASS, and the LOWER or WORKING CLASS. This is known as the CLASS SYSTEM and it is important to know something about it if you want to understand British people and society. Most British people grow up with a deep knowledge and understanding of the class system even if they are not very conscious of it. Most people know which class they belong to and are able to tell which class another person comes from by the way they speak, their clothes, their interests or even the type of food they eat.

Social class is not only about behaviour and attitudes. For example, although many upper class people are rich and may own a lot of land, having a lot of money does not make a person upper class. It is also important to come from a particular kind of family, have friends who are considered suitable, have been to a certain type of PRIVATE SCHOOL and speak with the right kind of ACCENT. There are people who are poor but who do not think of themselves as working class because their family background, education, political opinions, etc. are different to those of most working-class people. Many people do not like the class system but it is impossible to pretend that these differences do not exist or that British people do not sometimes form opinions in this way.

Many kinds of foods, activities, and aspects of lifestyle are associated with one particular class. These are often referred to, e.g. in jokes and stories, in order to convey information about a person's social class. For example, if a man is described as enjoying a few beers and a game of darts in the pub on a Saturday night, British speakers would guess that the man is working class. These tables should help you to understand the kinds of words which can be used to convey information about social class.

Food

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
Cordon Bleu		bangers & mash
champagne → → → → → → →		fish & chips
caviar		pie & chips
smoked salmon		beer
	health foods	
	e.g. wholemeal bread	
	foreign food	tomato ketchup
	e.g. avocado, pasta → → → → → →	
	restaurants	junk food
		meat & 2 veg
		Chinese & Indian food
		especially takeaways

Education

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
Eton, Harrow	grammar school	comprehensive
public school ← ← ← ←	state school	→ → → →
prep school		
finishing school		technical college
	Oxford	
	Cambridge	
← ← ← ←	university	→ → → →
	polytechnic	

Work/Jobs

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
←professional & white-collar jobs → → → → → →		blue-collar & manual jobs
judge	teacher → → → → → →	miner
stockbroker	accountant	mechanic
company director	bank manager	factory worker
MP → → → → → →	doctor	shop assistant
a job in the City → → → → → →		lorry driver
no job because the person is very rich, 'the idle rich'		

Housing

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
own several homes	own their own home	council house or council flat (owned or rented)
own a stately home	have a second home	inner city areas
large landowner	semi-detached or detached house in suburbs	
live in Mayfair and Knightsbridge (rich areas of central London)		

Leisure

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
ballet	theatre	
opera	cinema → → → → → →	
	television → → → → → → → → →	
	radio → → → → → → → →	
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	art galleries	
	museums	
	radio 4	ITV
	BBC 2	soap operas e.g.
	Channel 4	Coronation St
	← ← ← ← ← ← ←	pubs
	wine bars → → →	working men's clubs

Sports and games

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
polo		football
any sport involving horses		darts
horse racing		horse racing
		bingo
		snooker
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	ski-ing	
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	sailing	racing pigeons (in the north)
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	tennis → → → → → → →	
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	rugby → → → → → → →	
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	cricket → → → → → → →	
← ← ← ← ← ← ←	golf	
fox hunting		
hunting, shooting and fishing		

Politics

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
Conservative	Conservative	Conservative
	← ← ← ← ← Labour	→ → → → →
	SDP	
	Liberals	
	Green Party	

Holidays

upper class	*middle class*	*working class*
	walking holidays	package
	Lake District	tours
Mustique	Devon	Benidorm
Gstaad	Cornwall	Costa del Sol
The Caribbean	France	Ibiza
	Tuscany	Blackpool
cruises → → → → →		British seaside
	camping	caravans
Orient Express	villas	holiday camps
	gites	
	holiday cottages	
	←←←←← B & B	→ → → → →

social class /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a group of people who have the same economic and social position in society: *legislation that will affect every social class, from manual workers to peers of the realm* —see also MIDDLE CLASS, UPPER CLASS, WORKING CLASS and see extra information on page 1258

social climb·er /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n derog* a person who spends money or tries to make friends in order to be accepted by a group of people of a higher class

social con·science /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [S] concern for poorer people and their quality of life: *She has a highly-developed social conscience, and does a lot of voluntary work to help the less well-off.*

social con·tract /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* an agreement between a group in society and a government that explains and limits the rights and duties of each of them (from a book by the French thinker Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 1762)

social de·moc·ra·cy /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [C;U] (a political and economic system based on) the ideas of equality and public ownership of the means of production, achieved through government of the people by their elected representatives: *Social democracy gives You a voice.* | *Britain has never been a social democracy.*

social dem·o·crat /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* someone who supports the system of social democracy

Social Dem·o·crat and La·bour Par·ty /ˌ·· ˌ··· · ˈ·· ˌ··/ see SDLP

Social Dem·o·cratic Party /ˌ·· ··ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **Social Democrats** /ˌ·· ˈ···/, **SDP** [*the+sing./pl. v*] a British political party formed in 1981 and sharing many of the opinions of the Liberal Party. It was led for most of its existence by David Owen. In 1988 most of its members joined with the Liberal Party to form the Social and Liberal Democrats, although the Social Democratic Party still officially existed for several years —see also SOCIAL AND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

social dis·ease /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n euph for* VENEREAL DISEASE

social drink·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a person who drinks alcohol when they are with friends, but not when alone

social fund /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] (in Britain) a sum of money set aside by the government from which certain poor people who need money for a particular purpose can be given it

social grac·es /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [P] attractive qualities with regard to manners, appearance, speech, and behaviour: *His professor is certainly lacking in the social graces!*

so·cial·is·m /ˈsəʊʃəl-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) any of various beliefs or systems (sometimes considered to include Communism) aiming at public ownership of the means of production and the establishment of a society in which every person is truly equal —compare CAPITALISM, COMMUNISM

►CULTURAL NOTE In the US, socialism is generally unpopular and not respected and politicians often accuse their opponents of supporting it.◄

so·cial·ist[1] /ˈsəʊʃəl-ɨst/ *n* **1** a believer in socialism **2** (*usu. cap.*) a member of a socialist political party

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, people sometimes informally call the Labour Party **the socialists**.◄

3 We are all Socialists now *quote* a phrase used by a 19th century Liberal politician, **Sir William Harcourt**, which people sometimes ADAPT

socialist[2] *adj* **1** of or supporting socialism: *socialist principles/ideals/tendencies* **2** (*usu. cap.*) of, supporting, or agreeing with any of various esp. Western European parties who support greater equality of wealth and more government ownership of business: *the Socialist manifesto*

Socialist Work·er /ˌ··· ˈ··/ a British newspaper produced by a strongly LEFT-WING political group, whose members give it out to people in public places

so·cia·lite /ˈsəʊʃəl-aɪt/ *n* a person well known for going to many fashionable parties

so·cial·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsəʊʃəl-aɪz/ *v* **1** [I (**with**)] to spend time with others in a friendly way: *I enjoy socializing with my students after class.* —compare FRATERNIZE (1) **2** [T] *tech* to make fit or train for life in a society. **—-ization** /ˌsəʊʃəl-aɪˈzeɪʃən‖-ʃələ-/ *n* [U] : *new programmes for the socialization of young offenders* (=criminals)

socialized medi·cine /ˌ··· ˈ·· ‖ ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* [U] *AmE* medical care provided by a government and paid for by taxes —see NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

social life /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [C;U] the activities one does with one's friends, e.g. going to a party, out for dinner, or for a drink: *She may not be able to come. She has a very busy social life.*

social mo·bil·i·ty /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the ability to move into a different social class, esp. up into the higher one: *He swears by the old school tie, the ultimate aid to social mobility.*

social sci·ence /ˌ·· ˈ··‖ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* **1** [U] also **social studies**— the study of people in society, usu. including history, politics, ECONOMICS, SOCIOLOGY, and ANTHROPOLOGY **2** [C] any of these: *the social sciences* —compare NATURAL SCIENCE **—-entist** *n*

social se·cu·ri·ty /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] **1** *BrE* ‖ **welfare** *AmE* — government money paid to people who are unemployed, old, ill, etc.

►CULTURAL NOTE Some people think that the social security system is too complicated and the payments too low. Other people get annoyed by some people receiving social security because they appear not to be trying to find work and make a lot of claims for money which taxpayers provide: *He's* **on social security**. (=receiving government money) | *claimants attending the social security office* | *social security benefit*◄

2 *AmE* (*often cap.*) the system of government payments, esp. to RETIRED people —see also DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Num·ber /ˌ·· ·ˈ··· ˌ··/ *abbrev.* **SSN**— *n* a number of the form 000-00-0000 which the US government gives to all working people in order to bring them into the WELFARE system —see also FICA, SOCIAL SECURITY (1)

social serv·ice /ˌ·· ˈ··‖ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a service that is necessary for society to work properly and is provided by a government or supported by government money: *Should the railways make a profit or should they be regarded as a social service?*

social serv·i·ces /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [*the*+P] *esp. BrE* the special services provided by a government or local council to help people, such as education, health care, etc.: *Her children were being abused and have been taken into the care of the social services.*

social stud·ies /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [P] SOCIAL SCIENCE

social work /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] work done by government or private organizations to improve bad social conditions and help people in need

social work·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a person who is employed in SOCIAL WORK: *The police have called social workers in to help the dead man's family.*

so·ci·e·tal /səˈsaɪətl/ *adj* [A] of society: *societal attitudes/resources*

▷USAGE **Societal** is much more limited in its use than **social**. It is used about a particular society, not human society generally, and is esp. used by students of SOCIAL SCIENCE.◁

so·ci·e·ty /səˈsaɪɨti/ *n* **1** [U] people in general, considered with regard to the structure of laws, organizations, etc., that makes it possible for them to live together: *Society has a right to expect people to obey the law.* | *He is a danger to society, and ought to be locked up.* **2** [C;U] a particular broad group of people who share laws, organizations, customs, etc.: *Such behaviour is unacceptable in a civilized society.* | *Britain is a multi-racial society.* | *Drug abuse is one of the problems confronting modern Western society.* | *He thinks greed is a product of the consumer society.* | *Shopaholics are a new problem, born of the affluent society.* **3** [C] an organization or club of people withsimilar aims, interests, etc.: *She joined the university film society.* | *a member of the Law Society* **4** [U] the fashionable group of people of the upper classes in a place: *At the age of 21 a girl was introduced into* **(high) society.** | *a well-known society hostess* | *a society wedding* **5** [U] *fml* the companionship or presence (of other people): *He shunned the society of others, preferring to be alone.* —see also BUILDING SOCIETY, FRIENDLY SOCIETY

▷USAGE Compare **society** [U] and **community** [C]. *The* **community** is a general expression for the people as a whole in a particular village, town, city or area: *Keep the streets clean for the good of the* **community.**

Society is a more general word for people considered in relation to each other, perhaps in one country, or even in many countries: *the problems of modern* **society.** —see also FOLK[1] (USAGE), RACE[3] (USAGE)◁

Society of Friends /·ˌ··· · ˈ·/ [*the*] the formal name of the QUAKERS

Society of Je·sus /·ˌ··· · ˈ··/ [*the*] the formal name of the JESUITS

socio- see WORD FORMATION

so·ci·o·bi·ol·ogy /ˌsəʊsiəʊbaɪˈɒlədʒi, ˌsəʊʃiəʊ-‖-ˈɑːl-/ *n* [U] the study of social behaviour in animals including its change over long periods of time and its usefulness for making sure that the different kinds of animals continue to exist

so·ci·o·ec·o·nom·ic /ˌsəʊsiəʊekəˈnɒmɪk, ˌsəʊʃiəʊ-, -iːkə-‖-ˈnɑː-/ *adj* based on a combination of social and money conditions: *The different classes in society are known technically as socioeconomic groups.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

so·ci·ol·o·gy /ˌsəʊsiˈɒlədʒi, ˌsəʊʃi-‖-ˈɑːlə-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of societies and human behaviour in groups —compare ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOLOGY, SOCIAL SCIENCE —**-gist** *n* —**-gical** /ˌsəʊsiəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂, ˌsəʊʃiə-‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* —**-gically** /kli/ *adv*

so·ci·o·path /ˈsəʊsiəpæθ, ˈsəʊʃiə-/ *n* **1** *tech* a person whose habitual behaviour with and towards others is considered unacceptable, unbalanced, and possibly dangerous —compare PSYCHOPATH **2** *not tech* a PSYCHOPATH —~**ic** /ˌsəʊsiəˈpæθɪk◂, səʊʃiə-/ *adj*

sock[1] /sɒk‖sɑːk/ *n* **1** a covering of soft material for the foot and usu. part of the lower leg, usu. worn inside a shoe: *My socks keep falling down.* | *He's wearing odd socks.* (=they do not match) | *knee-length socks* | *ankle socks* — compare STOCKING; see PAIR (USAGE) **2 pull one's socks up** *BrE infml* to make an effort to improve oneself, one's work, etc. **3 put a sock in it** *humor, esp. BrE* to keep quiet; stop talking

sock[2] *v* [T(**on**)] *infml* **1** to strike hard: *He socked his opponent on the jaw.* **2 sock it to someone** *old-fash* to express oneself or behave forcefully: *It was a great performance; you really socked it to them!*

sock[3] *n* [(**on**) *usu. sing.*] *infml* a forceful blow, esp. with the closed hand: *a hefty sock on the jaw*

sock·et /ˈsɒkɨt‖ˈsɑː-/ *n* **1** a piece of plastic or other material with holes in it, which is fixed into a wall or on to the end of a wire, and to which electrical equipment can be connected for the electricity supply: *Plug the iron into that socket, will you?* **2** an opening or hollow place into which something fits: *He was so astonished that his eyes nearly fell out of their sockets!*

sock·ing /ˈsɒkɪŋ‖ˈsɑː-/ *adv infml, esp. BrE* extremely (big): *It had grown into a* **socking great** *tree.*

Sock Shop /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] one of a group of shops which sells socks, TIGHTS, etc.

Soc·ra·tes /ˈsɒkrətiːz‖ˈsɑːk-/ (about 470–399 BC) a famous Greek thinker, and teacher of Plato. He is known for encouraging people always to question everything. He upset the leaders of Greek society, who made him kill himself by drinking poisonous HEMLOCK. —**-tic** /səˈkrætɪk/ *adj* : *Socratic methods*

sod[1] /sɒd‖sɑːd/ *n BrE taboo sl* **1** a stupid or annoying person, esp. a man: *My boss can be an absolute sod at times.* | *You sod! That was the last cake!.* **2** something that causes a lot of trouble or difficulty: *a sod of a job* **3 not give/care a sod** not to care at all

sod[2] *v* **-dd-** [T *usu. imperative*] *BrE taboo sl* (used for expressing annoyance or displeasure at the stated thing or person): *Sod this radio! Why won't it work?* | *Oh sod it, I've missed my train!*

sod off *phr v* [I *usu. imperative*] *BrE taboo sl* to go away: *He got angry and told me to sod off.*

sod[3] *n* [U] *esp. fml or lit in BrE* a piece of earth with grass and roots growing in it; TURF[1] (1)

sod farm /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a business which grows and sells SOD[3]

so·da /ˈsəʊdə/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a drink of) SODA WATER: *Could you put more soda in my campari, please?* | *Two whisky and sodas, please.* | *a soda siphon* **2** [U] also **soda pop**— *esp. AmE for* POP[2] (2): *a bottle of orange soda* **3** [C] an ICE-CREAM SODA: *A chocolate soda, please.* **4** [U] *not tech* SODIUM (in such phrases as **bicarbonate of soda**)

soda crack·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **cracker**— *n AmE* a small thin unsweetened BISCUIT, often eaten with cheese

soda foun·tain /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE, becoming old-fash* a place in a shop at which fruit drinks, ice cream, etc., are served

soda wa·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **soda** ‖ also **club soda** *AmE*— *n* [U] water filled under pressure with gas (CARBON DIOXIDE) which gives it a more pleasant and fresher taste

sod·den /ˈsɒdn‖ˈsɑːdn/ *adj* heavy with wetness; SOAKED: *We trudged across the sodden ground.*

sod·ding /ˈsɒdɪŋ‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj* [A] *BrE taboo sl* (used for giving force to an expression, esp. showing annoyance): *Why won't this sodding car start?*

so·di·um /ˈsəʊdiəm/ *n* [U] a silver-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), found in nature only in combination with other substances

sodium bi·car·bo·nate /ˌ··· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] *tech* BICARBONATE

sodium chlo·ride /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *tech for* SALT

Sod·om and Go·mor·rah /ˌsɒdəm ənd gəˈmɒrə‖ˌsɑː-, -ˈmɔː-/ any place or places considered particularly evil or wicked, esp. regarding sexual behaviour (from the story in the Bible of the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah which were destroyed by God for their wickedness): *Some people have a biblical attitude towards Aids. It's like Sodom and Gomorrah to them – the plagues have descended.* | *Newspapermen arrived in droves after the town was dubbed the new Sodom by a local priest.*

sod·o·mite /ˈsɒdəmaɪt‖ˈsɑː-/ *n old-fash* a person practising sodomy

sod·o·my /ˈsɒdəmi‖ˈsɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml or law* any of various sexual acts other than the usual sexual act between a man and a woman, esp. the putting of the male sex organ into the ANUS of esp. another male

sod's law /ˌ· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ also **Murphy's law** *esp. AmE*— *humor* (*often cap.* S) the natural tendency for things to go wrong if it is possible for them to go wrong: *According to Sod's law, if you drop a piece of bread and butter, it will land butter-side down.*

so·fa /ˈsəʊfə/ *n* a comfortable seat with raised arms and a back, wide enough for usu. two or three people; SETTEE: *Sit on the sofa.* —see picture at LIVING ROOM

sofa bed /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a sofa which can be changed into a bed

So·fi·a /ˈsəʊfiə/ the capital city of Bulgaria

soft /sɒft‖sɔːft/ *adj* **1** not firm against pressure; not hard or stiff: *His foot sank slightly into the soft ground.* | *a soft chair|bed* **2** less hard than average: *Lead is one of the softer metals.* | *soft cheese* **3** pleasantly smooth and delicate to the touch; not rough: *a baby's soft skin* **4** quiet; not making much noise; not loud: *a whisper so soft I could hardly hear* **5** restful and pleasant to the senses, esp. the eyes: *Soft lights and sweet music create a romantic atmosphere.* | *The room was decorated in soft pastel colours.* —opposite **harsh** **6** with little force; light; gentle: *Give it a soft tap with the hammer.* | *a soft breeze* **7** *infml, often derog* not needing hard work; easy: *He's got a pretty soft job in the ministry.* —see also SOFT OPTION **8** [(**with**)] too kind; not severe enough: *I think the courts are too soft with these young offenders.* | *You big soft thing! Why did you agree to help them when you know you can't afford the time?* —opposite **hard** (**on**) —see also SOFTY **9** [(**on**)] not showing (enough) firmness in opposing or dealing with something: *The government was accused of* **taking a soft line** (=not being firm enough) *with the unions.* | *His political enemies said he was soft on Communism.* **10** not in good bodily condition; weak; FLABBY: *He'd got soft after all those years in a desk job.* **11** *infml* dealing with opinions, ideas, etc., rather than numbers and facts: *Psychology would be regarded as one of the soft sciences.* **12** [A] not of the worst, most harmful, etc., kind: *soft porn* | *Cannabis is a* **soft drug.** —opposite **hard** **13** *not tech* (in English pronunciation) **a** (of the letter *c*) having the sound /s/ and not /k/: *The* c *in* acid *is soft.* **b** (of the letter *g*) having the sound /dʒ/ and not /g/: *The* g *in* age *is soft.* —opposite **hard** —see also WATER SOFTENER **14** (of water) free from certain minerals; allowing soap to LATHER (=form a white mass) easily: *We're lucky that the local water is quite soft.* —opposite **hard** **15** *infml, esp. NEngE* foolish **16 be soft on someone** *infml* to be very attracted to someone sexually —see also SOFT SPOT **17 soft in the head** *infml* foolish; mad —~**ly** *adv* : *Music played softly in the background. She stroked his hair softly.* | *A breeze blew softly across the lake.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

soft·ball /ˈsɒftbɔːl‖ˈsɔːft-/ *n* [U] a game similar to BASEBALL but played on a smaller field with a slightly larger and softer ball, usu. by girls or women or by groups of men and woman together

soft-boiled /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of an egg) boiled not long enough for the YOLK to become solid, i.e. for between about three and five minutes: *He likes his eggs soft-boiled.* —compare HARD-BOILED

soft cop·y /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *tech* information stored in a computer's memory or shown on a SCREEN, rather than in printed form —compare HARD COPY

soft cov·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* PAPERBACK

soft drink /ˈ· ·/ *n* a drink which contains no alcohol and is served cold

soft·en /ˈsɒfən‖ˈsɔː-/ *v* [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) become soft(er), gentle, less stiff, or less severe: *The ice cream softened and began to melt.* | *His voice softened sympathetically.* | *The government's attitude on this question has softened recently.* | *a cream for softening dry skin* | *He told her the bad news very gently, trying to* **soften the blow.** —opposite **harden**

soften sbdy./sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] **1** to weaken (an enemy's defences) before an attack, e.g. by bombing **2** *infml* to break down the opposition of; prepare for PERSUASION: *You'll have to soften her up before you ask for a pay rise!*

soft·e·ner /ˈsɒfənəʳ‖ˈsɔː-/ *n* **1** something that breaks down someone's possible opposition to an idea or request before they are told about it **2** *infml for* a WATER SOFTENER

soft fo·cus /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] an arrangement of the LENS in usu. a camera so that the lines of the object to be photographed are not clear. It is thought that photographs taken in this way make things look more ROMANTIC: *All these photos of brides have been taken in soft focus.*

soft fruit /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] *esp. BrE* a small eatable fruit that has no hard skin or hard inside seed: *Strawberries and raspberries are soft fruit(s).*

soft fur·nish·ings /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [P] *esp. BrE* (the materials used to make) curtains, mats, seat covers, etc., used in decorating a room

soft-head·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* stupid; silly **soft-head** /ˈ· ·/ *n*

soft·heart·ed /ˌsɒftˈhɑːtɪd◂‖ˌsɔːftˈhɑːr-/ *adj* having tender feelings; easily moved to pity; quick to forgive —**~ness** *n* [U]

soft·ie /ˈsɒfti‖ˈsɔːf-/ *n infml* a SOFTY

soft land·ing /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a slow coming down of a spacecraft to Earth, the moon, etc., without damage

softly-softly /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *adj* slow and careful: *He's very nervous so we'll have to try a softly-softly approach.*

soft mar·ga·rine /ˌ· ··ˈ· ‖ ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] a food tasting rather like butter, but made mainly from vegetable fats. It always stays soft, even when it is cold.

soft op·tion /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n often derog* an easier thing; a course of action that will give one less trouble: *Faced with such strong opposition, he* **took the soft option** *and gave in to most of their demands.* | *Don't imagine that computer studies is a soft option; it's quite a tough course.*

soft pal·ate /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* the soft back part of the top of the mouth —compare HARD PALATE

soft-ped·al /ˌ· ˈ··‖ˈ· ˌ··/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T] *infml* to make (a subject, fact, suggestion, etc.) seem unimportant; PLAY **down:** *The council are soft-pedalling their housing policy until the local elections.*

soft porn /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] magazines, pictures, etc., that are considered to be only slightly PORNOGRAPHIC. They are therefore generally regarded as TASTELESS but harmless by many British and US people, although an increasing number of people do not like women being shown in this way —compare HARD PORN

soft sell /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [(*the*) S] selling by suggestion or gentle persuading of buyers —opposite **hard sell**

soft-soap /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T (**into**)] *infml* to persuade or make calmer, less angry, etc., by saying nice things: *She soft-soaped him into agreeing to help her.*

soft soap /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *infml* saying nice things about people, esp. as a way of getting something one wants from them; FLATTERY

soft-spok·en /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj apprec* having a gentle quiet voice

soft spot /ˈ· ·/ *n* [(**for**)] *infml* a feeling of special kindness or liking; fondness: *He's a bit of a rogue, but I've got quite a soft spot for him.*

soft touch /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n infml* someone from whom it is easy to get what one wants, esp. money or help, because they are kind, easily deceived, etc.

soft·ware /ˈsɒftweəʳ‖ˈsɔːft-/ *n* [U] *tech* the set of systems (in the form of PROGRAMS rather than machine parts) which is stored on MAGNETIC TAPE or DISK and controls the operation of a computer: *Can you load the new software for me?* | *a software package* | *word processing/spreadsheet software* —compare FIRMWARE, HARDWARE

soft·wood /ˈsɒftwʊd‖ˈsɔːft-/ *n* **1** [U] wood from EVERGREEN trees, such as PINE and FIR, that is cheap and easy to cut **2** [C] a tree that has wood of this type —compare HARDWOOD

soft·y, softie /ˈsɒfti‖ˈsɔːfti/ *n infml* **1** a person who is easily moved to pity or who is SENTIMENTAL **2** a weak or very easily persuaded person

SOGAT /ˈsəʊgæt/ (in Britain) the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades; an important TRADE UNION for printing workers

sog·gy /ˈsɒgi‖ˈsɑːgi/ *adj* completely wet; heavy and usu. unpleasant with wetness: *The ground was soggy after the heavy rain.* | *They served up some rather soggy tomato sandwiches.* —**-gily** *adv* —**-giness** *n* [U]

soh /səʊ/ *n* [S;U] SO⁴

So·ho /ˈsəʊhəʊ/ an area in central London famous for its theatres, NIGHTCLUBS, SEX SHOPS, and restaurants, esp. of Chinese food

SoHo an area of Manhattan, New York City, south of Houston Street, known for fashionable shops and restaurants —see colour map on page 1376

soi·gné, -gnée *fem.* /ˈswɑːnjeɪ‖swɑːnˈjeɪ/ *adj fml* dressed or arranged fashionably and with care in detail

soil¹ /sɔɪl/ *n* **1** [U] the top covering of the earth in which plants grow; ground: *an area of rich/sandy soil* **2** [*the*+S] *usu. pomp* where a farmer works; the life or land of a farm: *She makes her living from the soil.* | *a man of the soil* **3** [U] *usu. pomp* a place or country: *This is my native soil.* —see also NIGHT SOIL; see LAND (USAGE)

soil² *v* [T] *fml* to make dirty, esp. slightly or on the surface or with bodily waste matter: *Put all soiled sheets into this basket.* | *childen who soil themselves after the age of three* | (fig.) *I wouldn't soil my hands on/with such a dishonest scheme.*

soi·ree, -rée /ˈswɑːreɪ‖swɑːˈreɪ/ *n esp. pomp* an evening party, often including an artistic performance, e.g. of music or poetry

soj·ourn¹ /ˈsɒdʒɜːn‖ˈsəʊdʒɜːrn/ *n esp. lit* a stay in a place other than one's home for a time

sojourn² *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *lit* to live for a time in a place: *Jesus sojourned many days in the desert.* —**~er** *n*

sol /sɒl‖səʊl/ *n* [S;U] SO⁴

sol·ace¹ /ˈsɒlɪs‖ˈsɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] comfort in grief or anxiety; lessening of trouble in the mind: *I'm afraid he took his solace in drink.* (=drank alcohol to comfort himself) **2** [C (**to**)] *fml* something that provides this: *Her daughter was a great solace to her in her bereavement.*

solace² *v* [T] *lit* to give comfort in mind to or for; CONSOLE

so·lar /ˈsəʊləʳ/ *adj* **1** of or from the sun: *solar time* **2** using the power of the sun's light and heat: *a solar heating system* | *the production of solar energy*

solar cell /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* an apparatus for producing electric power from sunlight

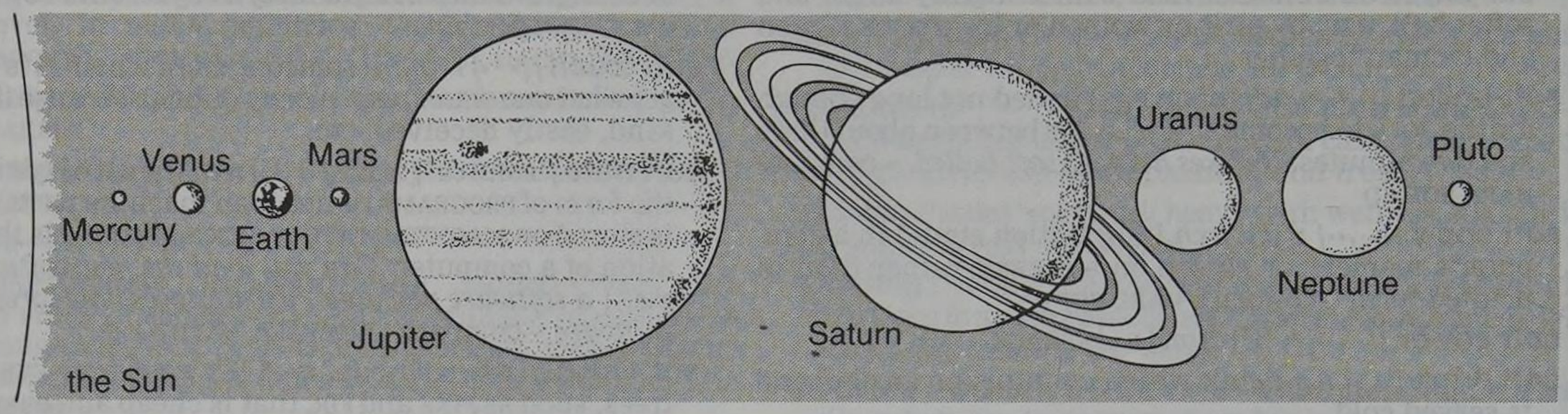
so·lar·i·um /səʊˈleəriəm/ *n* **-ia** /riə/ or **-iums** a room, usu. enclosed by glass, where one can sit in bright sunlight

solar pan·el /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a number of SOLAR CELLS working together: *They have a solar panel on their roof that powers their central heating.* —see picture at SPACE STATION

solar plex·us /ˌsəʊlə ˈpleksəs/ *n* [*the*+S] **1** *med* the system of nerves between the stomach and the BACKBONE **2** *not tech* the front part of the body below the chest: *I punched him in the solar plexus.*

solar sys·tem /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* **1** [(*the*)] (*often caps.*) the sun together with the PLANETS going round it **2** [C] such a system round another star

solar year /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n tech* the length of time in which the



Earth goes once round the sun, equal to 365 days 5 hours 49 minutes

sold /səʊld/ *past tense & participle of* SELL[1]

sol·der[1] /ˈsɒldəʳ, ˈsəʊl-‖ˈsɑːdər/ *n* [U] soft metal, usu. a mixture of lead and tin, used when melted for joining other metal surfaces

solder[2] *v* [T] to join or repair with solder: *That electrical connection should be soldered.* —compare WELD

soldering i·ron /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* a tool which is heated, usu. by electricity, for melting and putting on solder

sol·dier[1] /ˈsəʊldʒəʳ/ *n* **1** someone who serves in the military forces of a country; a member of an army, esp. one who is not an officer: *The soldier saluted.* | *Stand to attention, soldier!* **2 old soldiers never die (they simply just fade away)** a phrase from a humorous British army song of the First World War —compare SAILOR; see also MILITARY SERVICE, SOLDIERS, UNKNOWN SOLDIER

soldier[2] *v*

soldier on *phr v* [I] *esp. BrE* to continue working; work steadily, esp. in spite of difficulties: *He doesn't like the job but he'll soldier on until they can find a replacement for him.*

sol·dier·ing /ˈsəʊldʒərɪŋ/ *n* [U] the life or job of a soldier

sol·dier·ly /ˈsəʊldʒəli‖-ərli/ *adj lit apprec* typical or worthy of a good soldier: *He had an upright soldierly bearing.*

soldier of for·tune /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *n lit or euph* a person who travels in search of military action, for adventure or pay; a MERCENARY

sol·diers /ˈsəʊldʒəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] *BrE* long narrow pieces of bread or TOAST, often given to small children e.g. to dip into a SOFT-BOILED egg

sol·dier·y /ˈsəʊldʒəri/ *n* [(*the*) U+*sing./pl. v*] *lit* a body of soldiers, esp. of the stated (often bad) type

sole[1] /səʊl/ *n* **1** the bottom surface of the foot, esp. the part on which one walks or stands —see picture at FOOT **2** the part of a piece of footwear covering this, esp. the flat bottom part of a shoe not including the heel —see picture at SHOE **3 -soled** /səʊld/having soles of the stated type: *thick-soled shoes*

sole[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to put a new sole on (a shoe): *I'm having my shoes soled and heeled.*

sole[3] *n* **sole** *or* **soles** [C;U] a flat fish that is often used for food —see also LEMON SOLE

sole[4] *adj* [A] **1** being the only one; only: *The sole survivor of the crash was a little baby.* **2** belonging or allowed to one person or group only; not shared: *a sales representative with sole responsibility for sales in the North East* — see also SOLELY

so·le·cis·m /ˈsɒlɪsɪzəm‖ˈsɑː-/ *n tech or pomp* a breaking of rules about what is proper, esp. in grammar or social politeness

sole·ly /ˈsəʊl-li/ *adv* not including anything else or any others; only: *I am concerned solely for your welfare.* | *I hold you solely responsible.*

sol·emn /ˈsɒləm‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj* **1** [A] (of a promise) made with great seriousness and no intention of breaking it: *Do you give me your solemn word|pledge that you won't go there?* **2** serious; without humour or lightness; GRAVE: *The judge looked solemn as he was about to pass sentence.* | *The signing of this treaty is a solemn moment in our nation's history.* **3** of the grandest and most formal kind: *The new ambassador was received with solemn ceremonies.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

so·lem·ni·ty /səˈlemnɨti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being solemn; formality or seriousness: *He took up the gavel, with mock solemnity.* **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a formal act or quality proper for a grand or solemn event: *All the solemnities of the occasion were observed.*

sol·em·nize also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈsɒləmnaɪz‖ˈsɑː-/ *v* [T] *fml or tech* to perform (esp. a marriage) with formal religious ceremony —**-nization** /ˌsɒləmnaɪˈzeɪʃən‖ˌsɑːləmnə-/ *n* [U]

So·lent /ˈsəʊlənt/ [*the*] the narrow piece of sea between the Isle of Wight and the S coast of England

sol-fa /ˌsɒl ˈfɑː‖ˌsəʊl-/ *n* [U] the system which represents the notes of the musical SCALE[1] (5) by any of seven short words (DO[4], RE[1], MI, FA, SO[4], LA, and TI), esp. for singing

so·li·cit /səˈlɪsɨt/ *v* **1** [I;T (**for**)] *fml* to ask for (money, help, a favour, etc.) from (a person): *May I solicit your advice on a matter of some importance?* **2** [I] *esp. law* (esp. of a woman) to offer oneself for sex in return for pay; advertise oneself as a PROSTITUTE: *The police arrested her for soliciting.* **3** [T] *AmE* to sell by taking orders for a product or service, esp. by going to people's houses or places of business —~**ation** /səˌlɪsɨˈteɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

so·lic·i·tor /səˈlɪsɨtəʳ/ *n* **1** (esp. in England) a lawyer who gives advice, does the necessary work when property is bought and sold (CONVEYANCING), and speaks esp. in the lower courts of law. In 1992 it was decided that solicitors could also argue cases in the higher courts, which formerly only BARRISTERS were able to do. —compare ADVOCATE, BARRISTER; see LAWYER (CULTURAL NOTE) **2** *AmE* a person whose job it is to SOLICIT (3) **3 No Solicitors** *AmE* (a sign to show that) people selling things are not welcome

so·lic·i·tor gen·e·ral /·ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* **solicitors general** **1** (in Britain) a law officer next in rank below the ATTORNEY GENERAL in a government. The solicitor general is usu. a member of the House of Commons and a BARRISTER, not a solicitor. **2** (in the US) a state law officer who deals with cases involving the rights of the state and cases involving the interests of the public. They are next in rank below the state attorney generals.

so·lic·i·tous /səˈlɪsɨtəs/ *adj* [(**about, of, for**)] *fml* **1** giving eager, kind, or helpful care: *a solicitous employer* **2** anxious; carefully interested: *He seemed most solicitous for your welfare.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

so·lic·i·tude /səˈlɪsɨtjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* anxious, kind, or eager care

sol·id[1] /ˈsɒlɨd‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj* **1** not needing a container to hold its shape; not liquid or gas: *The milk in the bottles had frozen solid.* **2** having an inside that is filled up; not hollow: *Children's bicycles sometimes have solid rubber tyres.* **3** made of close and tightly packed material; COMPACT[1]: *They dug down until they hit solid rock.* **4** firm and well made: *a very solid wall* | *This report you've written is a very solid piece of work.* | *There are solid reasons|grounds for believing that this is possible.* **5** [A] completely of the stated substance, esp. a metal or colour, and not mixed with others: *This watch is solid gold.* **6** *tech* of or having length, width, and height; THREE-DIMENSIONAL: *A sphere is a solid figure.* | *Solid geometry is the study of lines, figures, angles, etc., in space.* **7** that may be depended on; SECURE: *a solid supporter of the government* | *a solid base from which to attack the American market* **8** [(**for, against**)] *BrE* in or showing complete agreement: *The strike was 100 per cent solid.* (=all the workers took part) | *The members were solid against the idea.* —see also SOLIDARITY **9** *infml* without spaces or breaks; continuous: *I waited for three solid hours and then went home.* | *a solid line of people|cars* —~**ly** *adv*: *We're solidly behind*

you; you have our complete support. —~**ness** *n* [U]

solid[2] *n* **1** a solid object; something that does not flow: *Water becomes a solid when it freezes.* **2** [*usu. pl.*] an article of non-liquid food: *He's still too ill to take solids.* **3** [*usu. pl.*] the part of a liquid which has the qualities of a solid when separated from the SOLVENT: *milk solids* **4** *tech* (esp. in GEOMETRY) an object that takes up space, having length, width, and height: *A cube is a solid with six faces.*

sol·i·dar·i·ty /ˌsɒlɪˈdærɪti‖ˌsɑː-/ *n* [U (**with**)] loyal agreement of interests, aims, or principles among a group: *The union leaders appealed for workers' solidarity.*

Solidarity a Polish TRADE UNION formed in 1980 and led by Lech Walesa. Solidarity arranged STRIKES as a way of making the Communist government of Poland agree to political and economic changes, and many of its leaders were put in prison. By 1989 Solidarity had become so powerful that the government was forced to accept it as a political party and later that year **Tadeusz Mazowiecki**, one of its leaders, became PRIME MINISTER —see also GDANSK, Lech WALESA

solid fuel /ˌ·· ˈ·‖ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a substance that is burnt to produce heat or power that is solid, rather than a liquid or gas, e.g. coal

so·lid·i·fy /səˈlɪdɪfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become solid, hard, or firm: *If you leave it in a cool place, the jelly will solidify.* | *This new law has had the effect of solidifying opposition to the government.* —**-fication** /səˌlɪdɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

so·lid·i·ty /səˈlɪdɪti/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* the quality or state of being firm, not hollow, well made, dependable, or in agreement: *The Victorians built their furniture with great solidity.* | *Any doubts about the solidity of the pound will almost automatically decrease its value.*

solid-state /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj tech* of, being, or having electrical parts, esp. TRANSISTORS, that run without heating or moving parts: *a solid-state stereo system*

sol·i·dus /ˈsɒlɪdəs‖ˈsɑː-/ *n* **-di** /daɪ/ an OBLIQUE[2]

Sol·i·hull /ˌsəʊliˈhʌl/ a town in central England, SE of Birmingham

so·lil·o·quize also **-quise** *BrE* /səˈlɪləkwaɪz/ *v* [I] to speak in soliloquy

so·lil·o·quy /səˈlɪləkwi/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) talking to oneself alone, esp. a speech in a play in which a character's private thoughts are spoken to those watching the play —compare MONOLOGUE

sol·ip·sis·m /ˈsɒlɪpsɪzəm‖ˈsəʊ-, ˈsɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* a system of thought that admits only the self as something existing or knowable —**-tic** /ˌsɒlɪpˈsɪstɪk◂‖ˌsəʊ-, ˌsɑː-/ *adj*

sol·i·taire /ˌsɒlɪˈteəʳ‖ˌsɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] (a piece of jewellery having) a single jewel, esp. a large and expensive diamond **2** [U] a game played by one person with small pieces of wood or plastic or balls on a board **3** [U] *AmE for* PATIENCE (3)

sol·i·ta·ry[1] /ˈsɒlɪtəri‖ˈsɑːlɪteri/ *adj* **1** habitually alone, esp. by choice: *He's a solitary sort of fellow.* | *a solitary life* **2** [A] *esp. lit* alone without companions: *a solitary bird on the lonely shore* —see ALONE (USAGE) **3** in a lonely place; REMOTE: *a solitary inn at the edge of the moors* **4** [A *usu. in questions and negatives*] single: *Can you give me one solitary piece of proof for what you say?* —**-ily** /ˈsɒlɪtərɪli‖ˌsɑːlɪˈterɪli/ *adv*

solitary[2] *n* **1** [U] *sl for* SOLITARY CONFINEMENT **2** [C] *lit* a person who lives completely alone; HERMIT

solitary con·fine·ment /ˌ···· ·ˈ··/ *n* [**in** U] the keeping of a person in a closed place, esp. inside a prison, without any chance of seeing or talking to others, usu. as a form of additional punishment: *sentenced to three months' solitary confinement*

sol·i·tude /ˈsɒlɪtjuːd‖ˈsɑːlɪtuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being alone away from companionship

so·lo[1] /ˈsəʊləʊ/ *n* **-los** **1** [C] a piece of music for one performer —compare DUET **2** [C] a job or performance, esp. an aircraft flight, done by one person alone **3** [U] a card game like WHIST but in which each player plays against the others in turn without a partner

solo[2] *adj, adv* **1** without a companion or esp. instructor: *When did you first fly solo?* **2** of, for, or played as a musical solo: *There's a fine solo passage for the oboe here.* | *This passage is to be played solo by the piano.*

so·lo·ist /ˈsəʊləʊɪst/ *n* a performer of a musical solo

Sol·o·mon /ˈsɒləmən‖ˈsɑːl-/ (died about 922 BC) a king of Israel, the son of king David. He is said to have been extremely wise. The most famous example of this wisdom is a story in the Bible about two women who each claimed to be the mother of a particular baby. Solomon told them that, since they could not agree, the baby would have to be cut in two. One of the women immediately gave up her right to the child. Solomon knew that this woman must be its mother and it was returned to her: *The person the President chooses to advise him on foreign policy these days needs the wisdom of Solomon.* —see also SONG OF SOLOMON

Solomon Is·lands /ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*+P] a nation formed of several islands in the SW Pacific to the E of Papua, New Guinea; capital Honiara; population 317,000 (1989)

sol·stice /ˈsɒlstɪs‖ˈsɑːl-/ *n* the time of either the longest day in the year (about June 22) or the shortest day in the year (about December 22) —compare EQUINOX; see also MIDSUMMER DAY, SUMMER SOLSTICE, WINTER SOLSTICE

Sol·ti /ˈʃɒlti‖ˈʃəʊl-/, **Sir Georg** /dʒɔːdʒ‖dʒɔːrdʒ/ (1912–) a British CONDUCTOR, born in Hungary, who has been musical director of many important ORCHESTRAS

sol·u·ble /ˈsɒljʊbəl‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj* **1** [(**in**)] that can be dissolved (DISSOLVE) in a liquid: *These tablets are soluble in water.* **2** *fml* that can be solved: *Is the problem soluble?* —opposite **insoluble** —**-bility** /ˌsɒljʊˈbɪlɪti‖ˌsɑː-/ *n* [U]

so·lu·tion /səˈluːʃən/ *n* **1** [C (**to**)] an answer to a difficulty or problem: *We bought a second car; it was the solution to all our problems.* | *There are no simple solutions to the unemployment problem.* | *He finally came up with/found a solution.* —see also FINAL SOLUTION, SOLVE **2** [C;U] (a) liquid containing a solid or gas mixed into it, usu. without chemical change: *Prepare a weak sugar solution.* (=with little sugar in the water) —compare COLLOID **3** [(**in**)U] *tech* the state or action of being mixed into liquid like this: *sugar in solution in water*

solve /sɒlv‖sɑːlv, sɔːlv/ *v* [T] to find a solution to, an explanation of, or a way of dealing with (something): *Can you solve this riddle/crossword clue?* | *Sherlock Holmes solved many murder cases.* —**solvable** *adj* —**solver** *n*

sol·vent[1] /ˈsɒlvənt‖ˈsɑːl-, ˈsɔːl-/ *adj* having enough to pay all money owed; not in debt: *When I get my pay cheque I'll be solvent again.* —opposite **insolvent** —**-vency** *n* [U]

solvent[2] *n* [C;U] (á) liquid able to turn a solid substance into liquid: *Alcohol and petrol are useful solvents for grease stains that will not come off in water.*

solvent a·buse /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* [U] *fml for* GLUE-SNIFFING

Sol·zhe·nit·syn /ˌsɒlʒəˈnɪtsɪn‖ˌsəʊl-/, **Al·ex·an·der** /ˌælɪgˈzɑːndəʳ‖-ˈzæn-/ (1918–) a Russian writer who spent many years in prison because of his criticism of Stalinism and the system of government in the Soviet Union. He was forced to leave the Soviet Union in 1974 and went to live in the US. His books include *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, *Cancer Ward*, and *The Gulag Archipelago*. He was given the Nobel Prize for literature in 1970.

So·ma·li /səˈmɑːli/ *n* **1** [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Somalia **2** [U] the main language of Somalia —**Somali** *adj*

So·ma·li·a /səˈmɑːliə/ *adj* a country in E Africa bordering on Ethiopa, Kenya, and Djibouti; capital Mogadishu; population 7,339,000 (1989)

som·bre *BrE* ‖ **-ber** *AmE* /ˈsɒmbəʳ‖ˈsɑːm-/ *adj* **1** sadly serious; GRAVE[2]: *A funeral is a sombre occasion.* **2** (of a colour or sight) like or full of shadows; dark: *the sombre November skies* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

som·bre·ro /sɒmˈbreərəʊ‖sɑːm-/ *n* **-ros** a man's tall hat with a very wide flat BRIM, worn esp. in Mexico

some[1] /səm; *strong* sʌm/ *determiner* a little, a few, or a certain or small number or amount of: *I bought some sugar and some apples.* | *They own some land in London.* | *I saw some people I knew.* | *May I offer you some tea* (or *a cup of tea*)? —see MORE (USAGE), and LANGUAGE NOTE: Articles

some[2] /sʌm/ *determiner* **1** a certain amount or number (of), but not all: *Some parts of the country are quite mountainous.* | *Some days you win, and some days you lose.* **2** a(n); an unknown or unstated (one): *"Can you give me some idea of the cost?" "No, I'm afraid I haven't any*

idea." | *Go away! Come back some other time.* | *There must be some reason for what he's done.* **3** quite a large number, part, or amount of: *This generous donation should go some way* (=quite a long way) *towards paying our costs.* | *The fire went on for quite some time* (=several hours) *before it was brought under control.* **4** *infml* (used before a noun at the beginning of a sentence) no kind of; no ... at all: *Some help that is! We're no further on than we were before!* | *Some friend you are! You won't even lend me £1!* | *"Surely you'll finish the work by tonight?" "Some hope!"* **5** *infml* a fine or important; quite a: *That was some speech you made!* | *It was (quite) some party!* **6 some ... or (an)other** (*sometimes in comb.*) one or several which the speaker cannot or does not care to state exactly: *He's staying with some friends or other in the country.* | *I'm not making this story up; I must have heard it somewhere or other.*

▷ USAGE 1 In negative sentences, **any** and **no** are used instead of **some:** *I haven't* **any**/*I have* **no** *socks.* 2 In questions **any, anyone,** etc., are usually used. *Have you got* **any** *money?* | *Can you see* **any** *cars in the street?* | *Have you talked to* **anyone** *about your problem? If* **some, someone,** etc., are used in questions, it means that the answer "yes" is expected. Compare *Is there* **something** *to eat?* (=I can smell food!) | *Is there* **anything** *to eat?* (=I'm hungry!) This kind of question is often used in offers and invitations: *Would you like* **some** *more cake?* | *Shall I bring* **some** *food to the party?*◁

some[3] *pron* **1** a little, a few, or a certain or small amount: *He asked for money and I gave him some.* (compare *but I didn't give him any*) | *"Do you sell cream cakes?" "Yes, there are some in the window."* **2** [**(of**)] certain ones or a certain part but not all: *Some of his stories were quite amusing.* | *Some* (=some people) *say it was an accident, but I'm not sure.* **3 and** ˈ**then some** *infml, esp. AmE* a lot more: *"They say he earns $40,000." "And then some!"*

some[4] *adv* **1** (used usu. before a number) about: *There were some 40 or 50 people there.* **2** *AmE* rather; a little: *"Are you feeling better today?" "Some, I guess."* **3 some little/few** quite a lot of: *I hope this is the last we see of him for some little time!* **4 some more** an additional amount or quantity (of): *Would you like some more cake/apples?*

some·bod·y[1] /ˈsʌmbɒdi, -bədi‖-bɑːdi/ *pron* someone; some but no particular or known person: *There's somebody on the phone for you.* | *Somebody has parked their/his car right in front of mine.* —see also SOMEONE; see EVERYONE (USAGE), SOME (USAGE), SOMETHING (USAGE)

somebody[2] *n* [U] someone who is well known, has a high position, etc.; an important person: *Now that he's been promoted he thinks he's really somebody.*

some·day /ˈsʌmdeɪ/ *adv* at some uncertain future time: *Perhaps someday I'll be rich.*

some·how /ˈsʌmhaʊ/ *adv* **1** by some means; in some way not yet known or stated: *Don't worry; we'll get the lost money back somehow.* **2** for some reason that is not clear: *Somehow I seem to have two knives and no fork!* | *I think she's right but somehow I'm not completely sure.*

some·one /ˈsʌmwʌn/ *pron* **1** a person; some but no particular or known person; somebody: *There's someone on the phone for you.* | *If you don't know the answer, ask someone (else).* (=another person) | *Someone has parked their/his car right in front of mine.* **2 or someone** or a person of that sort: *This job needs a repairman or a builder or someone.* **3 someone/somebody up there (likes you)** *infml* God (likes you): *Wow! What a lucky shot! I think somebody up there likes you...* —see EVERYONE (USAGE), SOME (USAGE), SOMETHING (USAGE)

some·place /ˈsʌmpleɪs/ *adv esp. AmE for* SOMEWHERE

som·er·sault /ˈsʌməsɔːlt‖-ər-/ *n* a jump or rolling backward or forward (not sideways) movement in which the feet go over the head before the body returns upright: *He did a triple somersault.* | *to* **turn a somersault** *in mid-air* —compare CARTWHEEL —**somersault** *v* [I] : *He somersaulted through the window.*

Som·er·set /ˈsʌməset‖-mər-/ a COUNTY in SW England, known for producing very good CIDER. Its local government is based in Taunton.

Somerset House /ˌ··· ˈ·/ a building in the Strand in London where documents were kept containing information about British people such as their names, when they were born, etc. The office dealing with these documents is now at St Catherine's House in **Kingsway** in London, but people still often call it Somerset House.

Somerset Maugham, W. see W. Somerset MAUGHAM

some·thing /ˈsʌmθɪŋ/ *pron* **1** some unstated or unknown thing: *I've got something in my eye.* | *I was looking for something a little cheaper.* | *If there's no bread, we'll eat something else.* (=some other thing) | *We'll get something to eat at that snack bar.* | *I've got* **a little something** *for you.* (=a small present) —compare SOME[2] (2); see SOME (USAGE) **2** a thing of some value: *At least we didn't lose any money. That's something!* | *You can't get something for nothing.* (=a profit without any risk or effort) | *There's something in* (=some truth in) *what you say; I'll take your advice.* | *It's* **quite something** *to have sailed across the Atlantic on your own.* (=it is a brave/clever thing to have done) **3 or something** *infml* (used when the speaker is not sure): *He said he was going shopping or something.* | *The train gets in at 3.17 or something (like that).* **4 something like: a** rather like: *The building looked something like a church.* **b** *infml* about; approximately (APPROXIMATE): *There were something like 1000 people present.* **5 something of a/an** *infml* rather a/an; a fairly good: *He's something of an expert on growing vegetables.* **6 something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue** a phrase describing what a woman should wear at her wedding, according to TRADITION **7 something over/under** rather more/less than: *It cost something over £500.* **8 something to do with** (having) a connection with: *His job has/is something to do with oil.* **9 -something** *sometimes humor* (used after a number, esp. one showing someone's age, to show that one does not know or need to give it exactly): *There are more fiftysomething Europeans than ever before.*

▷ USAGE Notice the position of the adjective after words like **something, someone, anything, anywhere, nobody, nowhere:** *I'm looking for* **something** *different.* | *Have you got* **anything** *new? No,* **nothing** *special.* | *Let's go* **somewhere** *warm.*◁

some·time[1] /ˈsʌmtaɪm/ *adv* at some uncertain or unstated time **a** in the future: *We'll take our holiday sometime in August, I think.* **b** in the past: *Our house was built sometime around 1905.*

sometime[2] *adj* [A] *fml* having been once but now no longer; former: *Sir Richard Marsh, (the) sometime chairman of British Rail*

some·times /ˈsʌmtaɪmz/ *adv* on some occasions but not all: *Sometimes I come by train, but usually I come by car.* — see NEVER (USAGE)

some·way /ˈsʌmweɪ/ *adv AmE infml for* SOMEHOW (1)

some·what /ˈsʌmwɒt‖-wɑːt/ *adv* **1** by some degree or amount; a little; rather: *The price was somewhat higher than I'd expected.* | *They were suffering somewhat from the heat.* **2 more than somewhat** *BrE pomp* to quite a large degree: *His behaviour displeased me more than somewhat.* **3 somewhat of** *pomp* a kind of; rather: *The cake we made was somewhat of a failure.*

some·where /ˈsʌmweəʳ/ ‖ also **someplace** *esp. AmE*— *adv* **1** (in, at, or to) some place: *He's somewhere in the garden.* | *I don't like this restaurant — let's go* **somewhere else.** (=to some other place) | *They're looking for somewhere to stay.* | *He's finally told us the price — now we're getting somewhere!* (=some result) **2** some number or amount: *somewhere between 40 and 60 students* | *somewhere in the region of £1 million* **3 or somewhere** or in/at/to some other place: *I'd like to go away, perhaps to Greece or somewhere.* —see SOME (USAGE), SOMETHING (USAGE)

Somme /sɒm‖sɑːm/ [*the*] an area in N France where many battles were fought during the First World War. Very many soldiers died there, both from the fighting itself and from the terrible conditions on the battlefield. —see FIRST WORLD WAR (CULTURAL NOTE)

som·nam·bu·lis·m /sɒmˈnæmbjʊlɪzəm‖sɑːm-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* the action or habit of walking about while asleep —**-list** *n*

som·no·lent /ˈsɒmnələnt‖ˈsɑːm-/ *adj fml or lit* **1** nearly falling asleep; DROWSY **2** causing or suggesting sleep: *a somnolent summer's afternoon* — **~ly** *adv*

So·mo·za /səˈməʊzə/, **An·as·ta·si·o** /ˌænəˈstɑːsiəʊ/ (1896–1956) the president of Nicaragua for many years who ruled as a DICTATOR until he was killed. His second son, Anastasio Somoza Debayle was also president until

he was forced to leave the country by the Sandinistas in 1979. —see also SANDINISTA

son /sʌn/ *n* **1** [C] someone's male child: *Mr and Mrs Jones have three sons.* | *Their eldest son is a teacher.* | *the king's* **son and heir** | (fig.) *sons of Britain who fell in battle* **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a male descendant: *The sons of the first discoverers are still on the islands after centuries.* **3** [*the*] (*usu. cap.*) (in the Christian religion) the second person of the TRINITY; Christ **4 a** (used as an informal form of address by an older man or woman to a much younger man or boy): *What's your name, son?* **b** (used by a Roman Catholic priest to a man who has come to admit his SINS): *Are you willing to do penance for your sins, my son?*

so·nar /ˈsəʊnɑːr, -nər/ *n* [U] an apparatus using sound waves for finding the position of underwater objects, such as MINES[3] (3) or SUBMARINES

so·na·ta /səˈnɑːtə/ *n* a piece of music for one or two instruments, one of which is usu. a piano, made up of usu. three or four short parts of varying speeds: *the slow movement of Beethoven's fifth piano sonata*

Sond·heim /ˈsɒndhaɪm‖ˈsɑː-/, **Ste·phen** /ˈstiːvən/ (1930–) an American popular music songwriter known for the clever and amusing words to his songs. He wrote the words for the musical show *West Side Story* and both words and music for many other shows, including *A Little Night Music.*

son et lu·mi·ere /ˌsɒn eɪ ˈluːmieəʳ‖ˌsɑːn-/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* a performance which uses recorded sounds and coloured lights to tell the story of a historical place or event – compare ILLUMINATIONS

song /sɒŋ‖sɔːŋ/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a usu. short piece of music with words for singing: *Sing us a song.* | *a lovesong* | *songs with intelligent lyrics* | *a famous songwriter* **2** [U] the act or art of singing: *She suddenly* **burst into song.** (=started singing) **3** [C;U] the music-like sound of a bird or birds: *the song of the lark* | *birdsong* **4 (going) for a song** *infml* (being offered for sale) very cheaply **5 on song** *BrE* performing at one's best: *The team was really on song this afternoon, and won easily.* —see also SWANSONG

song and dance /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [S;U] *infml* **1** *esp. BrE* an unnecessary or useless show of confusion, anger, excitement, etc.; FUSS: *There's no need to make such a song and dance about a tiny scratch on the car.* **2** *AmE* a complicated or misleading explanation: *She gave us a song and dance about where she'd been all day.*

song·bird /ˈsɒŋbɜːd‖ˈsɔːŋbɜːrd/ *n* a bird that can produce musical sounds: *Thrushes and nightingales are songbirds.*

song·book /ˈsɒŋbʊk‖ˈsɔːŋ-/ *n* a book of songs with music for singing

Song of Sol·o·mon /ˌ· · ˈ···/ also **Song of Songs** /ˌ· · ˈ·/, **Canticles**– *n* a book in the Bible supposed to have been written by Solomon. It contains love poems which represent the love of God for his people.

Songs of Praise /ˌ· · ˈ·/ (in Britain) a well-known Sunday evening television programme in which HYMNS are sung by people in different churches around Britain

song·ster /ˈsɒŋstəʳ‖ˈsɔːŋ-/ *n lit* **1** also **song·stress** /-strəs/ *fem.*– a skilled singer **2** a songbird

son·ic /ˈsɒnɪk‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj tech* **1** of or at the speed of sound in air, about 340 metres per second (741 miles per hour) —see also SUBSONIC, SUPERSONIC **2** [A] of sound waves

sonic boom /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **sonic bang** *BrE*– *n* an explosive sound produced by the shock wave from an aircraft travelling faster than the speed of sound

son-in-law /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n* **sons-in-law, son-in-laws** the husband of one's daughter —compare DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

son·net /ˈsɒnət‖ˈsɑː-/ *n* a 14-line poem with any of several fixed formal RHYME patterns. The most famous sonnets in the English language are those written by Shakespeare.

son·ny /ˈsʌni/ *n old-fash* (used in speaking to a young boy): *Better go home to your mother, sonny.*

son-of-a-bitch /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* **sons-of-bitches, son-of-a-bitches** *taboo* someone one strongly dislikes; BASTARD (2): *That son-of-a-bitch stole my car!*

son-of-a-gun /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* **sons-of-guns** *infml apprec* (used esp. by a man to a close male friend) a man who wins the social approval of his group by having the qualities typical of a man and being daring, humorous, etc.

son of God /ˌ· · ˈ·/ also **son of Man**– [*the*] (*often cap.* S) the MESSIAH in the Christian and Jewish religions

so·nor·ous /ˈsɒnərəs, səˈnɔːrəs‖səˈnɔːrəs, ˈsɑːnərəs/ *adj* having a pleasantly full loud sound: *a sonorous bell/voice* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness, -ity** /səˈnɒrəti‖səˈnɔː-/ *n* [U]

Sons and Lov·ers /ˌ· · ˈ··/ a NOVEL by D H Lawrence about the son of an English coal miner, considered to be one of his best works —see also D H LAWRENCE

Sons of Lib·er·ty /ˌ· · ˈ···/ [*the*] secret groups formed in the US before the American Revolution which wanted the American colonies (COLONY) to be independent of Britain

Son·tag /ˈsɒntæg‖ˈsɑːn-/, **Su·san** /ˈsuːzən/ (1933–) an American writer, well-known for her descriptions of modern life. Her writings include *Against Interpretation* and *Under the Sign of Saturn.*

So·ny /ˈsəʊni/ a well known Japanese company that makes electronic goods esp. in the area of entertainment, e.g. TVs and PERSONAL STEREOS —see also WALKMAN

Soo·chow /ˌsuːˈtʃaʊ/ see SUZHOU

soon /suːn/ *adv* **1** before long; within a short time: *I must be going soon, so I won't have another drink.* | *We soon saw that we'd made a mistake.* [+*adv*/*prep*] *It happened soon after breakfast.* | (used in making threats) *I'll soon show her who's the boss here!* **2** quickly; early: *Please get that report done as soon as possible* – **the sooner the better.** | *I can't come until tomorrow, at the soonest.* | *He got married as soon as* (=at once after) *he left university.* | *I'd confidently predicted they'd win, but I spoke too soon – they were beaten in the final race.* | *The fire brigade arrived at last, not a moment too soon.* (=they almost arrived too late) **3** (in phrases expressing comparisons) readily; willingly: *I'd sooner die than marry you!* | *"Would you like to dance?" "I'd* **just as soon** *not* (=no), *if you don't mind."* **4 no sooner** … **than** when … at once: *No sooner had we sat down than we found it was time to go.* | *No sooner said than done!* (=it will be/has been done very fast) —see HARDLY (USAGE) **5 sooner or later** certainly, although one cannot be sure when: *If you cheat, you'll be found out sooner or later.*

soot /sʊt/ *n* [U] black powder produced by burning: *The inside of a chimney soon gets covered in soot.* —see also SOOTY

soothe /suːð/ *v* [T] **1** [(DOWN)] to make less angry, excited, or anxious; comfort or calm: *He'd got very annoyed about it, and it took all her tact to soothe him down.* | *to make soothing noises* **2** to make less painful: *This medicine should soothe your sore throat.* | *soothing lotions* – **soothingly** *adv*

sooth·say·er /ˈsuːθˌseɪəʳ/ *n old use* a person who was believed to be able to tell the future. Soothsayers were usually very old and very wise.

sooty /ˈsʊti/ *adj* covered in, or consisting of, soot: *sooty paws/pawprints*

Soot·y *n* a hand GLOVE PUPPET in the form of a little bear, who appears on children's television programmes in Britain. He does not speak and is very NAUGHTY. —see also SWEEP

sop[1] /sɒp‖sɑːp/ *n* [(**to**)] *derog* something (usu. of little real value) that is offered to gain someone's favour or stop them complaining: *The company agreed to make regular inspections of the river, as a sop to the environmental lobby.*

sop[2] *v* **-pp-**

sop sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] to take (a liquid) into a solid so as to leave a dry surface: *He sopped up all the spilt milk with a sponge.* —see also SOPPING

soph·is·m /ˈsɒfɪzəm‖ˈsɑː-/ *n fml derog* **1** [C] an argument which looks correct but is false, esp. one intended to deceive **2** [U] SOPHISTRY (1) —**-ist** *n*

so·phis·ti·cate /səˈfɪstɪkeɪt/ *n fml* a sophisticated person

so·phis·ti·cat·ed /səˈfɪstɪkeɪtɪd/ *adj* **1** experienced in and understanding the ways of society, esp. showing signs of this by good taste, clever conversation, wearing fashionable clothes, etc.: *a sophisticated audience who appreciated the subtlety of the play* | *a sophisticated writer* | *The fashion magazines show what the sophisticated woman is wearing this year.* | *He thinks it's sophisticated to smoke with a cigarette holder.* **2** produced or

developed with a high level of skill and knowledge: *sophisticated machinery|arguments | highly sophisticated filming techniques* —**-ion** /səˌfɪstɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *Your son's essays show great maturity and sophistication.*

soph·ist·ry /ˈsɒfɪstri‖ˈsɑː-/ *n fml derog* **1** [U] the use of false arguments that deceive **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a SOPHISM (1)

Soph·o·cles /ˈsɒfəkliːz‖ˈsɑːf-/ (about 496 BC–about 406 BC) a Greek poet. He wrote the famous TRAGIC play *Oedipus Rex.*

soph·o·more /ˈsɒfəmɔːr‖ˈsɑː-/ *n AmE* a student in the second year of study in a college or HIGH SCHOOL —compare FRESHMAN, JUNIOR, SENIOR

sop·o·rif·ic /ˌsɒpəˈrɪfɪk◂‖ˌsɑː-/ *adj* causing one to fall asleep: *a soporific drug|speech* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

sop·ping /ˈsɒpɪŋ‖ˈsɑː-/ *adv, adj infml* very wet: *Her clothes were sopping (wet).*

sop·py /ˈsɒpi‖ˈsɑːpi/ *adj BrE infml* **1** too full of expressions of tender feelings like sorrow, love, etc.: *a soppy love story* **2** [F+**about**] having a very great fondness (for): *She's just soppy about animals.* **3** foolish

so·pra·no /səˈprɑːnəʊ‖-ˈpræ-/ *n* **-nos** **1** (a woman or child with, or a musical part for) a high singing voice, above ALTO (2) **2** a musical instrument which plays notes in this highest range —**soprano** *adj, adv* : *a soprano voice | to sing soprano*

sor·bet /ˈsɔːbeɪ‖ˈsɔːrbɪt/ *n* [C;U] **1** also **sherbet** *AmE*— WATER ICE with the addition of the white of an egg, milk, etc.: *a spoonful of blackcurrent sorbet* **2** *AmE for* WATER ICE

Sor·bonne /sɔːˈbɒn‖sɔːrˈbɑːn/ [*the*] a very old part of the University of Paris

sor·cer·er /ˈsɔːsərər‖ˈsɔːr-/ **sor·cer·ess** /-rɪs/ *fem.*— *n* a person who is believed to be magic because of their use of the power of evil spirits. The popular image of a sorcerer in books, stories etc., is of an old man in a pointed hat and a long CLOAK which often has pictures of the moon and stars on it. —compare WITCH, WIZARD

sorcerer's ap·pren·tice /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ a piece of music by the French COMPOSER **Paul Dukas** (1865–1935), based on a poem by Goethe about a boy who works for a sorcerer and lazily tries to do his work using magic, but everything goes wrong

sor·cer·y /ˈsɔːsəri‖ˈsɔːr-/ *n* [U] the art and practice of a sorcerer

sor·did /ˈsɔːdɪd‖ˈsɔːr-/ *adj* **1** wicked and dishonourable; not noble: *Gradually the whole sordid story of how he had cheated and lied to his friends came out.* **2** dirty or in bad condition (as if) from lack of money and care; SQUALID: *He lived in a sordid little bed-sit.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

sore[1] /sɔːr/ *adj* **1** painful or aching from a wound, infection, or (of a muscle) hard use: *I've got a cold and a sore throat. | I'm sore|My legs are sore from all that running yesterday. | I have a sore finger.* **2** [A] *infml* likely to cause offence: *Don't joke about his weight: it's a rather* **sore point** *with him.* **3** [F **at**] *infml, esp. AmE* angry, esp. from feeling unjustly treated: *Don't get sore (at me); I didn't mean it!* —see also **sight for sore eyes** (SIGHT), SORELY — **~ness** *n* [U]: *some soreness and swelling in the infected area*

sore[2] *n* a painful usu. infected place on the body: *The poor animal was covered with sores.* —see also COLD SORE

sore·head /ˈsɔːhed‖ˈsɔːr-/ *n AmE infml* an unpleasant person, esp. one who does or says cruel things: *Don't be such a sorehead! I only asked if you'd had a good game.*

sore·ly /ˈsɔːli‖ˈsɔːrli/ also **sore** *old use*— *adv fml* very much; greatly: *These improvements are sorely needed.*

sor·ghum /ˈsɔːgəm‖ˈsɔːr-/ *n* [U] a type of corn grown in tropical areas —see picture at CEREAL

so·ror·i·ty /səˈrɒrɪti‖səˈrɔː-/ *n* (at some American universities) a club of women students usu. living in the same house (a **sorority house**)

▶CULTURAL NOTE Students who are in sororities often enjoy them very much, developing many friendships with their **sorority sisters**, and sometimes doing work for CHARITY together, but students who are not in a sorority sometimes see sorority sisters as more interested in fashion, clothes, and having fun than in studying. The names of sororities and fraternities (FRATERNITY) are Greek letters, such as Sigma Nu, so people in these clubs are sometimes called Greeks. —compare FRATERNITY (2); see also RUSH[2] (6)◀

sor·rel /ˈsɒrəl‖ˈsɔː-, ˈsɑː-/ *n* [U] a plant with sour-tasting leaves used in cooking

Sor·ren·to /səˈrentəʊ/ a town on the SW coast of Italy near Naples, where many people, esp. British people, go on holiday

sor·row[1] /ˈsɒrəʊ‖ˈsɑː-, ˈsɔː-/ *n* [C *often pl.*; U (**over, at, for**)] **1** (a cause of) unhappiness over loss or wrongdoing; sadness; grief: *We all share your sorrow over this sad loss. | Life has many joys and sorrows. | the conventional expressions of sorrow and sympathy* —see also **drown one's sorrows** (DROWN); see SORRY (USAGE) **2 more in sorrow than in anger** (to say or do something) in a way which shows that one is sad or disappointed, rather than angry, about the situation mentioned: *"Unless you can tackle your drink problem, I'm going to have to let you go", said the boss, more in sorrow than in anger.* — **~ful** *adj* — **~fully** *adv* — **~fulness** *n* [U]

sorrow[2] *v* [I (**over, at, for**)] *esp. lit* to feel or express sorrow; grieve: *a sorrowing heart*

sor·ry[1] /ˈsɒri‖ˈsɑːri, ˈsɔːri/ *adj* **1** [F (**for, about**)] feeling sadness, pity, or sympathy, esp. for another person's misfortune; grieved: *He was|felt sorry for her and tried to cheer her up. | I feel sorry for whoever marries her! | He came in looking very sorry for himself, and I could tell he'd had a bad day. | "How's your cat?" "It died." "I'm sorry (about that)."* [+*to-v*] *I was sorry to hear that your cat had died. | I'm sorry to say* (=I must tell you, but it makes me sad) *that our efforts have failed.* [+(*that*)] *I'm sorry you didn't pass your exam.* **2** [F (**for, about**)] having a sincere feeling of shame or unhappiness at one's past actions, and expressing a wish that one had not done them: *If you say you're sorry (for what you did), I'm sure she'll forgive you.* [+(*that*)] *I'm sorry I lost my temper. | I can't tell you how sorry I am.* (=I am extremely sorry) *| I'm sorry I ever came here; I wish I'd stayed at home!* **3** [F] (used for expressing polite refusal or disagreement, or excusing oneself, etc.): *I'm sorry but I won't be able to come|but I can't agree with that.* **4** [A] causing pity mixed with disapproval: *He was a sorry sight in his dirty and torn old clothes. | You've made a sorry mess of this piece of work. | It's a* **sorry state of affairs** (=unsatisfactory) *when you have to wait an hour to be served.*

▷ USAGE Compare **sorry** and **sorrowful.** You say "*(I'm)* **sorry**" if you step on someone's toe, etc., and *I'm very* **sorry** *(to hear that)* when you hear about another person's troubles. If you *feel* **sorry** *for* someone you feel pity for them. **Sorrowful** would not be used for either of these meanings of **sorry,** and would not be used about yourself. It is a much stronger and rather literary word meaning "looking, sounding or feeling very unhappy": *I could see how unhappy she was from her* **sorrowful** *face.* —see also EXCUSE[1] (USAGE)◁

sorry[2] *interj* **1** (used for expressing polite refusal, disagreement, excusing oneself, etc.): *"That's my coffee, I think." "Sorry". | Sorry, but you can't come in. | Sorry, did I step on your toe?* **2** *esp. BrE* (used for asking someone to repeat something one has not heard properly): *"I'm cold." "Sorry?" "I said I was cold."*

sort[1] /sɔːt‖sɔːrt/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a group of people, things, etc., all sharing certain qualities; type; kind: *They sell many different sorts of wine here. | What sort of music do you like best? | There were all sorts of colours|colours of all sorts* (=many different colours) *to choose from. | What sort of (a) man is he?* (=What is he like?) *| I don't like that sort of book|those sorts of book|*(*infml*) *those sorts of books.* — see KIND (USAGE) **2** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a person of the stated type: *That was nice of her; she's not such a bad sort* (=quite a nice person) *after all.* **3 a sort of (a)** a faint, unexplained, or unusual kind of: *I had a sort of (a) feeling you'd say that. | After the soup we had a sort of stew — I'm not sure what was in it.* **4 it takes all sorts (to make a world)** any society consists of people who vary greatly in their habits, characters, opinions, etc. **5 of sorts/a sort** of a poor or doubtful kind: *It's a painting of sorts, but hard to describe.* **6 sort of** *infml* in some way or degree; rather: *It was sort of odd that he didn't come. | I was feeling sort of ... well ... ill, really.* —see KIND (USAGE) **7 out of sorts** *infml* feeling unwell or annoyed **8 what sort of** *infml* (used for asking angry questions): *What sort of an excuse is that?* (=I do not think it

is a good one) | *What sort of time do you call this to come in?* (=I think it is very late)

sort[2] *v* **1** [I (**through**); T (**out**)] to put (things) in order; place according to kind, rank, etc.; arrange: *I've been sorting (through) these old papers to see what can be thrown away.* | *She got a job sorting letters in the Post Office.* | *They sorted the apples according to size|into large ones and small ones.* **2** [T] *esp. ScotE* to mend; repair: *We need to get the washing machine sorted.* —~**er** *n*

sort sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** [(**from**)] to separate from a mass or group: *Sort out the papers to be thrown away, and put the rest back.* | *a preliminary audition to sort out the talented performers from the rest* **2** *BrE* to deal with; make clear: *It was just a silly quarrel that's now been sorted out.* | *Have you sorted out how to get there yet?* —see also SORT-OUT **3** to make (a person) less confused or unsettled: *She was depressed when I went round, but I sorted her out.* | *Take these pills – they'll sort you out.* (=make you better) **4** *BrE infml* to attack and punish: *Let me get my hands on them! I'll sort them out!*

sor·tie /ˈsɔːti‖ˈsɔːrti/ *n* **1** a short attack made by an army from a position of defence **2** a flight to bomb an enemy base, city, etc. **3** *infml* a short trip into an unfamiliar or unfriendly place: (fig.) *His first sortie into the world of film-making wasn't very successful.*

sorting of·fice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a part of a POST OFFICE where letters are separated into different groups according to where they are being sent to

sort-out /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE infml* an act of putting things in order: *This room's very untidy; it needs a good sort-out.* —see also SORT **out**

SOS /ˌes əʊ ˈes/ *n* **1** the letters *SOS* used as an international signal calling for help, esp. by ships in trouble. The letters SOS were chosen because they are easy to do in MORSE CODE, they do not have another meaning: *He tapped out an SOS on the pipes he was chained to.* **2** an urgent message from someone in trouble: *The radio often broadcasts SOSs|SOS messages to find the relatives of someone who is very ill.* —compare MAYDAY

so-so /ˈ· ·/ *adj, adv infml* neither very bad(ly) nor very good/well: *Business is only so-so at the moment.* | *"How's the work going?" "So-so."*

sot /sɒt‖sɑːt/ *n esp. lit* a person who is habitually drunk and unable to think clearly

Soth·e·by's /ˈsʌðəbiz/ a famous AUCTION HOUSE which arranges the sale of rare and valuable things such as paintings, furniture, etc. —compare CHRISTIE'S

sot·tish /ˈsɒtɪʃ‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj esp. lit* stupid, like a sot —~**ness** *n* [U]

sot·to vo·ce /ˌsɒtəʊ ˈvəʊtʃi‖ˌsɑː-/ *adj, adv fml* in a soft voice so that other people cannot hear: *They were passing sotto voce remarks while he gave his talk.*

sou /suː/ *n* [S *usu. in negatives*] *BrE infml* the smallest amount of money: *I had to pay £10 for the taxi and it left me without a sou.*

sou·bri·quet /ˈsuːbrɪkeɪ/ *n* a SOBRIQUET

souf·flé /ˈsuːfleɪ‖suːˈfleɪ/ *n* [C;U] a light airy dish made from eggs, flour, milk, and usu. cheese, fruit, or some other food to give taste, baked to be eaten at once

sough /sʌf, saʊ/ *v, n* [I] *lit* (to make) the sound of the wind in trees

sought /sɔːt/ *past tense & participle of* SEEK

sought-af·ter /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* wanted or popular because of rarity or high quality: *He's one of the world's most sought-after singers.*

souk /suːk/ *n* a market in a Muslim country

soul[1] /səʊl/ *n* **1** [C] the part of a person that is not the body and is thought not to die; the central or most important part of a person; the quality that makes a person human: *They say that hardship is good for the soul.* (=makes you a better person) —compare SPIRIT[1] (1)

►CULTURAL NOTE In the Christian religion people believe that when you die your soul goes to Heaven if you believe in Christ or to Hell if you have been wicked and do not believe in Christ —see also HEAVEN, HELL◄

2 [U] the attractive quality produced by honesty or true deep feeling: *It was a stylish performance but lacking in soul.* | *You don't care if they cut down that beautiful old tree. You've got no soul!* —see also SOULFUL, SOULLESS **3** [C] *esp. lit or old-fash* a person: *You mustn't tell a (living) soul.* | *She's a dear old soul.* | *He's had a lot of troubles to put up with, (the) poor soul!* **4** [C (**of**)] a central, most important or most active part: *He tells such good jokes, he's* **the life and soul of** *any party.* (=makes any party full of fun) **5** [*the*+S+**of**] the perfect example: *Your secret's safe with him; he's the* **soul of discretion.** **6** [U] SOUL MUSIC: *the sound of soul* | *a soul group* **7 upon my soul!** *old-fash* (used for expressing great surprise or shock) —see also **keep body and soul together** (BODY), **heart and soul** (HEART), **sell one's soul** (SELL)

soul[2] *adj* [A] *AmE* of or for black people: *soul food* | *soul music*

soul broth·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ **soul sis·ter** *fem.*— *n AmE* (used esp. among young black people) a black person

soul-des·troy·ing /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *adj derog* (esp. of a job) very uninteresting: *It's soul-destroying work.*

soul food /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* food that is popular with black people in the Southern US

►CULTURAL NOTE This is usu. southern-style country cooking and includes a variety of meat and vegetables, such as CHITTERLINGS (= pig stomach, etc.), ham HOCKS, and COLLARD GREENS —compare CAJUN◄

soul·ful /ˈsəʊlfəl/ *adj* full of feeling; expressing deep feeling: *a soulful look|song* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

soul·less /ˈsəʊl-ləs/ *adj derog* having or showing no attractive or tender human qualities: *a big soulless office building* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

soul mate /ˈ· ·/ *n* a person with whom one feels one shares a very close feeling or interest: *We'd only known each other for a few hours, but I felt we were soul mates.*

soul mu·sic /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] popular music usu. performed by black singers and showing feelings strongly and directly. It began in America and is closely related to RHYTHM AND BLUES. There have been many famous singers in soul music, but the most famous is probably James Brown who is known as 'the godfather of soul' —see also James BROWN, MOTOWN

soul-search·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a deep examination of one's mind and conscience: *After many hours of soul-searching he decided to admit his guilt.*

sound[1] /saʊnd/ *n* **1** [C;U] what is or may be heard; (something that causes) a sensation in the ear: *Strange sounds came from the next room.* | *I could hear the sound of voices|laughter|footsteps.* | *Don't make a sound, any of you.* (=keep quiet) | *There are over twenty different consonant sounds in English.* | *Sound travels|Sound waves travel at 340 metres per second in air.* | *a muffled|clear sound* | *a wailing sound* —see NOISE (USAGE) **2** [(*the*)S(**of**)] an idea produced by something read or heard: *From the sound of it, I'd say the matter was serious.* | *I don't like the sound of this; how long has she been missing?* **3** [U] **a** things broadcast or played from a recording machine for listening to rather than for seeing: *There is interference on vision, and for the moment we are continuing our programme on sound only.* | *a sound recording* **b** loudness of a television, film, etc.: *I can't hear what they're saying; turn the sound up.* **4 a sound mind in a sound body** the state of somebody who is physically and mentally healthy (from the Latin phrase *mens sana in corpore sano*) **5 full of sound and fury, signifying nothing** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, used by people in criticizing something which sounds impressive or threatening, but which has little meaning or is not important: *Jim sometimes flies off the handle and has these tantrums – full of sound and fury, signifying nothing!* —~**less** *adj* —~**lessly** *adv*: *He crept soundlessly into the room.*

sound[2] *v* **1** [L] to seem when heard: *Your cough sounds better.* | *Does this sentence sound right?* | *He had a very odd-sounding name.* | *From the way you describe him he sounds a real idiot.* | **It sounds as if/as though** *the government doesn't know what to do.* | *That* **sounds like** (=seems) *a good idea!* [+*to-v*] (*nonstandard*) *She sounds to be a very strange woman.* **2** [I] to make a sound; produce an effect that can be heard: *The bell sounded for dinner at eight o'clock.* | *The trumpets sounded as the champion entered.* **3** [T] to cause (esp. a musical instrument) to make a sound: *A bell is sounded at eight o'clock.*| *Sound your horn to warn the other driver.* **4** [T] to signal by making sounds: *They sounded the "all clear" after the air raid.* | *Sound the alarm!* **5** [T *usu. pass.*] *tech* to

express as a sound; pronounce: *The "s" in "island" is not sounded: it's silent.* **6** [T] *tech* to measure the depth of (a body of water), esp. by using a line with a weight on it (**sounding line**) or a machine (**echo sounder**) that sends out sounds which come back off the bottom —see also SOUNDINGS (1)

sound off *phr v* [I (**about**)] **1** *infml, usu. derog* to express an opinion freely and forcefully, esp. in a complaining manner: *He's always sounding off about the poor pay of teachers in this country.* **2** *AmE* to call out (usu. one's name or number in an order) loudly

sound sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**on, about**)] to try to find out the opinion or intention of: *I wrote to him to sound out his views on the new project.* —see also SOUNDINGS (2)

sound[3] *adj* **1** in good condition; without disease or damage: *The surveyor reported that all the walls were completely sound.* | *(law) The doctor certified that she was* **of sound mind.** (=not mad) —opposite **unsound** **2** showing good sense or good judgment: *That's very sound advice; you should take it.* | *She's a very sound woman to have on the committee.* | *politically sound* | *a man of sound judgment* | *a sound investment that is sure to bring good profits* —opposite **unsound** **3** thorough; complete: *to give employees a sound training* **4** [A] severe; hard: *a sound beating* **5** (of sleep) deep and untroubled **6 as sound as a bell: a** (of a person) without disease **b** (of a thing) in perfect condition — ~**ly** *adv*: *She slept soundly throughout the night.* | *We were soundly* (=severely and completely) *beaten by our opponents.* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

sound[4] *adv* **sound asleep** deeply asleep

sound[5] *n* **1** a fairly broad stretch of sea water mostly surrounded by coast **2** a water passage connecting two larger bodies of water and wider than a STRAIT

sound bar·ri·er /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* [*the*+S] the sudden increase in the force opposing an object in flight as it gets near the speed of sound: *A jet plane was the first to* **break the sound barrier.** (=go faster than sound)

sound bite /ˈ· ·/ *n* a short part of a speech or a statement, esp. one made by a politician, which is broadcast on radio or television, e.g. as part of a news programme. A sound bite is often only one sentence long.

sound check /ˈ· ·/ *n* the process of checking that all the equipment such as MICROPHONES, SPEAKERS, etc. is working well before a concert, and that the sound produced is of the desired quality

sound ef·fects /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* [P] sounds produced by people or machines to give the effect of natural sounds needed in a radio or television broadcast or a film, for example, putting COCONUT shells down repeatedly on a hard surface to give the sound of a horse's hooves (HOOF)

sounding board /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a board fixed over and behind a stage, PULPIT, etc., to allow a speaker or performer to be heard more loudly and clearly **2** [(**for**)] a means used for testing thoughts, opinions, etc.: *As the professor's assistant, my function was often simply to be a sounding board for his latest ideas.*

sound·ings /ˈsaʊndɪŋz/ *n* [P] **1** measurements made by sounding (SOUND[2](6)) water **2** carefully quiet or secret enquiries: *I've asked her to take soundings to find out if Sir John would be willing to accept the chairmanship.*

Sound of Mu·sic /ˌ· · ˈ··/, **The** a very successful musical film made in the US in 1965 with Julie Andrews. In the film Julie Andrews sings the song *The Hills are Alive* (*with the sound of music*). —see colour picture on page 685

sound·proof[1] /ˈsaʊndpruːf/ *adj* that sound cannot get through or into: *soundproof walls* | *a soundproof room*

soundproof[2] *v* [T] to make soundproof

sound·track /ˈsaʊndtræk/ *n* **1** the recorded music from a film **2** the band near the edge of a piece of film where sound is recorded

sound wave /ˈ· ·/ n the form which sound takes when it travels

soup[1] /suːp/ *n* [C;U] **1** (any of many kinds of) liquid cooked food often containing small pieces of meat, fish, or vegetables: *tomato soup* | *a bowl of soup* | *a good selection of packet soups* **2 from soup to nuts** *AmE infml* from beginning to end, completely and in detail **3 in the soup** *infml* in trouble

soup[2] *v*

soup sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] **1** to increase the power of (an engine) or the size of the engine of (a car), esp. with a SUPERCHARGER **2** *infml, often derog* to make bigger, more exciting, more attractive, etc.: *His second book is just a souped-up version of his first one.*

soup·çon /ˈsuːpsɒn‖-sɑːn/ *n* [S (**of**)] *Fr, fml or humor* a little bit: *It just needs a soupçon more salt.*

soup kitch·en /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a place where people with no money and often no homes can get free food. Soup kitchens are run by organizations such as churches or charities (CHARITY) and they provide tea and coffee and simple food (not necessarily soup).

soup spoon /ˈ· ·/ *n* a rounded spoon about the size of a DESSERTSPOON, used for eating soup —see pictures at SPOON and PLACE SETTING

sour[1] /saʊəʳ/ *adj* **1** having the taste that is not bitter, salty, or sweet, and is produced esp. by acids: *Lemons are sour.* | *sour green apples* —compare BITTER[1] (1), SWEET[1] (1) **2** having the taste of fermentation (FERMENT) (=chemical action by bacteria): *This milk has gone sour; it has a sour taste* **3** having or expressing a bad temper; unfriendly; SULLEN: *He gave me a sour look.* **4** [F] *infml* bad or wrong; disappointing: *The project* **turned sour/went sour** *on us when we found no oil and our backers pulled out their money.* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

sour[2] *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become sour: *The milk has soured overnight.* | *Various unhappy experiences have soured her view of life.*

sour[3] *n esp. AmE* a drink made with LEMON juice, sugar, and the stated strong alcohol: *a whiskey sour*

source[1] /sɔːs‖sɔːrs/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a place from which something comes; means of supply: *We'll have to find a new source of income.* | *I haven't been able to track down the source of the rumour/to locate the source of the contamination.* **2** a cause: *This faulty connection is the source of the engine trouble.* **3** the place where a stream of water starts: *We followed the river back to discover its source.* —compare SPRING[2] (2) **4** a person or thing that supplies information: *When writing an academic article, always list your sources.* | *source material* | *I've heard from a reliable source that the company is doing very badly.*

source[2] *v* [T] to find a SOURCE[1] (1) of: *A team of eager, resourceful buyers who monitored the fashion scene was dispatched to the Far East to source cheap copies.*

source code /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *tech* a computer PROGRAM in a form readable by a person who knows the language it is written in —compare MACHINE CODE

sour cream /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **soured cream** *BrE*— *n* [U] cream made sour by adding a kind of bacteria, and used in various foods

sour·dough /ˈsaʊədəʊ‖ˈsaʊər-/ *n* [U] uncooked bread mixture (DOUGH) which is kept for a period of time and then used in cooking bread, cakes, etc. to help them to rise

sour grapes /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the fact of pretending to dislike what one really desires, because it is unobtainable: *Since losing the election, John says he never really wanted to be a politician anyway, but I think it's just sour grapes.*

sour·puss /ˈsaʊəpʊs‖-ər-/ *n humor derog* a person with no sense of humour, who always complains and is never satisfied

Sou·sa /ˈsuːzə/, **John Philip** (1854–1932) an American musician who wrote music and led bands. His **Sousa marches** (music written to walk to), esp. *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, are very popular in the US.

sou·sa·phone /ˈsuːzəfəʊn/ *n* a very large brass musical instrument used esp. in bands and usu. fitted round the player's left shoulder

souse /saʊs/ *v* [T] **1** to dip in water or pour water over; make completely wet **2** to preserve (esp. fish) by placing it in water with salt in it, VINEGAR, etc.: *soused herrings*

soused /saʊst/ *adj* [F] *infml* drunk

south[1] /saʊθ/ *written abbrev.* **S** *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [*the*+S;U] the direction which is down from the centre line of the Earth (EQUATOR); the direction which is on the right of a person facing the rising sun: *I'm lost; which direction is South?* | *A strange light appeared in the south.* | *The airport is a few kilometres to the south of London.* **2** [*the*] the southern part of a country —see NORTH (USAGE)

south[2] *adj* [A] **1** (*sometimes cap.*) in the south or facing the south: *The south side of the building gets a lot of sun.*|

She lives in South America. **2** (of a wind) coming from the south: *a gentle south wind* —see NORTH (USAGE)

south[3] *adv* **1** (*often cap.*) towards the south: *The room faces south, so we get a lot of sun.* | *The birds fly south in winter.* | *Lisbon is (a long way) south of Oporto.* **2 down south** *infml* to or in the south of the country: *We're planning to move down south.*

South [*the*] **1** the SE states of the US, esp. in talking about politics or history

►CULTURAL NOTE The South has played an important part in American history. Before the Civil War many black people were brought from Africa to states in the South to work in cotton fields (PLANTATIONS) as slaves. The Civil War (1861 – 65) was fought partly over slavery. After the war, in which the South was defeated by the North, the slaves were freed, but most Southern states created laws which kept black people and white people separate. During the 1950s and 60s, when black people demanded CIVIL RIGHTS (equal rights as citizens), many white people in the South refused to accept changes and there was often violence, esp. by members of the Ku Klux Klan. The South is now seen as a place where family, good manners, and religious values are stronger, and it is sometimes called the **Bible Belt** because there are many Christian FUNDAMENTALIST churches there. Southerners are considered to be CONSERVATIVE (=not wanting change) politically but the Democratic Party is also strong in the South. Most people from the South have strong, slow accents (DRAWLS) which are slightly different in each state. —see also DEEP SOUTH◄

2 the Southern part of England

►CULTURAL NOTE The South of England is seen by British people as being richer than the rest of Britain. People from other parts of the country often think that people from the South are unfriendly and too concerned with making money. They also think that people in the South, esp. London, are not interested in what is happening in the North or in Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. —see also SOUTHEAST◄

3 the poorer countries of esp. southern parts of the world, such as Africa and South America; THIRD WORLD

South Af·ri·ca /ˌ· ˈ···/ a country in Southern Africa, bordered by Botswana and Zimbabwe; capital Johannesburg; population 34,492,000 (1989). Very many people all over the world did not approve of South Africa's former political plan of keeping white and black people separate (called APARTHEID), or of the system of government where a MINORITY of people has the power. Some governments would not trade with South Africa or meet its politicians. There are many people inside South Africa who are working to change the political situation and it is beginning to change as black people are gaining more political power. —see also ANC, Steve BIKO, Nelson MANDELA

South Af·ri·can /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* a person who comes from or whose parents come from lives in South Africa —**South African** *adj*

South·all /ˈsaʊθɔːl/ an area of W London near Heathrow Airport, where many Asians live

South A·mer·i·ca /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ a CONTINENT to the SE of North America, lying between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, mainly S of the EQUATOR —**South American** *adj,n*

South·amp·ton /saʊθˈhæmptən. saʊˈθæmp-/ a city and important port in S England which has a university

South Aus·tra·li·a /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ a state in central S Australia whose capital is Adelaide

South Bank /ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the*] a part of London, in Lambeth on the S bank of the river Thames, which is one of the most important CULTURAL centres in the capital. The National Theatre, the National Film Theatre, the Royal Festival Hall (used for concerts), the Museum of the Moving Image, and the Hayward Gallery (an art GALLERY) are all there. —see colour map on page 817

south·bound /ˈsaʊθbaʊnd/ *adj* travelling or leading towards the south: *southbound ships* | *the southbound side of the motorway*

South Car·o·li·na /ˌsaʊθ kærəˈlaɪnə/ *written abbrev.* **SC** a state in the SE of the US. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY) —see colour map on pages 1374–5

South Cir·cu·lar /ˌ· ˈ···/ [*the*] a road in London which goes through many of the areas south of the River Thames

South Da·ko·ta /ˌsaʊθ dəˈkəʊtə/ *written abbrev.* **SD** a state in the central part of the US —see colour map on pages 1374–5

South Downs /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a range of hills in S England — compare NORTH DOWNS

south·east[1] /ˌsaʊθˈiːst◂/ *written abbrev.* **SE** *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [*the*+S;U] the direction which is half-way between south and east: *The wind's in* (=is coming from) *the southeast.* **2** [*the*+S] the SOUTHEASTERN part of a country

southeast[2] *adj* [A] (of a wind) coming from the southeast —**southeast** *adv* : *to sail southeast* | *Madagascar is southeast of Tanzania.*

South East /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the SE part of England, including London, with a high population and many industries, esp. service industries (SERVICE INDUSTRY)

►CULTURAL NOTE People in Britain think if the South East as being richer than other parts of Britain, and as not having the social and economic problems that exist in other parts of the country, e.g. unemployment, crime, homelessness, etc.: *They moved down to the affluent South East.* | *It seems that even the South East may be affected by this recession.*◄

Southeast A·sia /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a part of the world between India, China, and the Pacific Ocean which includes the nations of Brunei, Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

south·east·er /ˌsaʊθˈiːstəʳ/ *n* a strong wind or storm coming from the southeast

south·east·er·ly /ˌsaʊθˈiːstəli‖-ər-/ *adj* **1** towards or in the southeast: *Rain will spread to southeasterly regions by tomorrow morning.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the southeast

south·east·ern /ˌsaʊθˈiːstən‖-ərn/ *adj* (*often cap.*) of the southeast part, esp. of a country

south·east·ward /ˌsaʊθˈiːstwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* going towards the southeast: *in a southeastward direction* —**southeastwards, southeastward** *adv*: *sailing southeastwards*

South·end on Sea /ˌsaʊθend ɒn ˈsiː‖-ɑːn-/ a town on the SE coast of England, near London, which is a popular place for people from London, esp. WORKING-CLASS people, to go for the day or for their holidays

south·er·ly /ˈsʌðəli‖-ər-/ *adj* **1** towards or in the south: *We set off in a southerly direction.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the south: *gentle southerly breezes*

south·ern /ˈsʌðən‖-ərn/ *adj* [*no comp.*] (*often cap.*) of or belonging to the south part of the world or of a country: *She lives in southern Italy.* | *in the southern hemisphere* —see NORTH (USAGE) and see picture at GLOBE

Southern Alps /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*+P] mountain ranges on the South Island of New Zealand. Their highest point is Mount Cook, which is the highest point in New Zealand.

Southern Bap·tist /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a member of a church that is part of the Baptish Church, formed in the Southern US in 1845. It is known for its FUNDAMENTALIST beliefs.

Southern belle /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n AmE* (esp. formerly) a woman from the South with beauty, good manners, and high social standing

Southern Com·fort /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a strong, sweet alcoholic drink which is made in the American south

South·ern·er /ˈsʌðənəʳ‖-ðər-/ *n* a person who lives in or comes from the southern part of a country —see SOUTH[1] (2)

Southern Ire·land /ˌ·· ˈ··/ see REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

southern lights /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+P] (*usu. caps.*) see AURORA

south·ern·most /ˈsʌðənməʊst‖-ərn-/ *adj* [*no comp.*] furthest south: *the southernmost tip of the mainland*

Southern States /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] the states of the US that lie south of the Mason-Dixon Line, between Pennsylvania and West Virginia

Southern Wa·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a water company in S England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

Sou·they /ˈsaʊði/, **Rob·ert** /ˈrɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt/ (1774–1843) an English writer and poet who became POET LAUREATE in 1813 and now is remembered esp. for his book *Life of Nelson* and for short poems such as *The Battle of Blenheim*

South·fork /ˈsaʊθfɔːk‖-fɔːrk/ the name of the home of the Ewing family in the American television programme *Dallas* —see DALLAS

South Geor·gia /ˌ· ˈ··/ an island in the S Atlantic, E of Cape Horn, which is under British control. Nobody lives there except British soldiers and a few scientists. Both Britain and Argentina think the island should belong to them. —see also FALKLANDS WAR

South Gla·mor·gan /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ a COUNTY in S Wales. Cardiff, the capital of Wales, is in South Glamorgan.

South Is·land /ˈ· ˌ··/ [(*the*)] one of the two main islands of New Zealand, whose main towns are Christchurch and Dunedin. It is important for sheep farming and the growing of WHEAT.

South Ken·sing·ton /ˌ· ˈ···/ also **South Ken** /ˌ· ˈ·/ *infml* — a part of London which contains the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum, and is a fashionable and expensive place to live

South Ko·re·a /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ a country in NE Asia bordering on the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea; capital Seoul; population 42,380,000 (1989) —see also KOREA

South of France /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] the part of France along the coast between Marseilles and the border with Monaco, which is also called the French Riviera.

►CULTURAL NOTE This area is a very popular place to go on holiday. In the past only very rich people went there, and places like Cannes and Cap d'Antibes are still seen as places where rich, famous, and fashionable people go, but now many ordinary people from many countries also go on holiday there. —see also RIVIERA◄

South Pa·cif·ic /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ a very popular old musical play and film

south·paw /ˈsaʊθpɔː/ *n* **1** *BrE* a left-handed BOXER (1) **2** *AmE infml* a left-handed person, esp. a left-handed PITCHER[2] (in BASEBALL)

South Pole /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] (the lands around) the most southern point on the surface of the Earth —see also MAGNETIC POLE, NORTH POLE; and see picture at GLOBE

South Sea Bub·ble /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] the name given in Britain to a period of financial SPECULATION at the beginning of the 18th century. Many people invested (INVEST) money with the **South Sea Company**, a company which made money from trade with other countries. There was much dishonest dealing in the company and in the end the company failed, causing many people to lose the money that they had invested.

South Seas /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the oceans of the southern HEMISPHERE (=half of the world), esp. the S Pacific —**South Sea** /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] : *the South Sea islands*

South Wales /ˌ· ˈ·/ the southern part of Wales, that contains many of the coal areas and large industries of Wales —see also WALES

south·ward /ˈsaʊθwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* going towards the south: *a southward journey*

south·wards /ˈsaʊθwədz‖-wərdz/ also **southward**— *adv* towards the south: *We sailed southwards.* | *It's farther southward than you might think.* —see also SOUTH[3]

South·wark /ˈsʌθək‖-ərk/ a BOROUGH of London on the S side of the river Thames which has a famous CATHEDRAL

south·west[1] /ˌsaʊθˈwest◂/ *written abbrev.* **SW** *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [*the*+S;U] the direction which is half-way between south and west: *The wind's in* (=is coming from) *the southwest.* **2** [*the*+S] the southwestern part of a country **3** [*the*+S] the southwestern part of the US, including the states of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of Texas, Utah, and Colorado. It is known esp. for its style of buildings, decorations, and furniture, which is influenced by Native American and Mexican styles and is connected in people's minds with ADOBE, colours such as brown and dark orange, and patterns based on Native American art: *Her interior decoration is done in southwest style.*

southwest[2] *adj* [A] (of a wind) coming from the southwest —**southwest** *adv* : *to sail southwest* | *Spain is southwest of France.*

south·west·er /ˌsaʊθˈwestəʳ/ also **sou'wester**— *n* a strong wind or storm from the southwest

south·west·er·ly /ˌsaʊθˈwestəli‖-ərli/ *adj* **1** towards or in the southwest **2** (of a wind) coming from the southwest

south·west·ern /ˌsaʊθˈwestən‖-ərn/ *adj* (*often cap.*) of the southwest part, esp. of a country

south·west·ward /ˌsaʊθˈwestwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* going towards the southwest: *in a southwestward direction* — **southwestwards, southwestward**— *adv* : *sailing southwestwards*

Southwest Wa·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a water company in SW England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

South York·shire /ˌ· ˈ··/ a COUNTY in the N of England

sou·ve·nir /ˌsuːvəˈnɪəʳ, ˈsuːvənɪəʳ/ *n* [(**of**)] an object (to be) kept as a reminder of an event, trip, place, etc.: *He bought a little model of the Eiffel Tower as a souvenir of his holiday in Paris.*

sou'west·er /saʊˈwestəʳ/ *n* **1** a hat of shiny material worn to keep off the rain with a wide band coming far down over the neck, typically worn by fishermen **2** a SOUTHWESTER

sove·reign[1] /ˈsɒvrɪn‖ˈsɑːv-/ *n* **1** *fml* a king or queen; the person with the highest power in a country: *loyal subjects of our sovereign* **2** a former British gold coin worth £1

sovereign[2] *adj* in control of a country; ruling: *Sovereign power must lie with the people.*

So·vi·et /ˈsəʊviət, ˈsɒ- ‖ ˈsəʊ-, ˈsɑː-/ *adj* of the USSR (the **Soviet Union** /ˌ··· ˈ··/) or its people: *the Soviet armed forces*

Soviet bloc /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] a popular name for the former USSR and its allies (ALLY), including countries of E Europe as well as COMMUNIST countries such as China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, etc.

Soviet U·nion /ˌ··· ˈ··/ see USSR

sow[1] /səʊ/ *v* **sowed, sown** /səʊn/ *or* **sowed** [I;T (**with**)] to plant or scatter (seeds) on (a piece of ground): *These seeds should be sown in April; that's the best time to sow.* | *Sow your carrots early.* | *We're sowing the field with grass.* | (fig.) *His words had sowed the seeds of suspicion in their minds.* —**~er** *n*

sow[2] /saʊ/ *n* a fully grown female pig —compare BOAR (1), HOG[1] (1,2)

So·wet·o /səˈwetəʊ/ the name for a group of towns where only black people live near Johannesburg in South Africa. In 1976 a student protest against the use of the Afrikaans language instead of English in schools became a RIOT and many people were killed. Soweto is seen as a centre for people who oppose the South African government's policy of APARTHEID.

sox /sɒks‖sɑːks/ *n* [P] *infml esp. AmE* socks

soy /sɔɪ/ also **soy·a** /ˈsɔɪə/— *n* [U] soya beans: *soya flour*

soya bean /ˈ·· ·/ also **soy·bean** /ˈsɔɪbiːn/— *n* (the bean of) an Asian plant grown for its seeds which produce oil and are rich in PROTEIN

So·yin·ka /sɔɪˈjɪŋkə/, **Wo·le** /ˈwəʊleɪ/ (1934–) a Nigerian writer of plays, poems, and NOVELS who won the Nobel Prize in 1986

soy sauce /ˌ· ˈ·‖ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] dark brown liquid made from soya beans used esp. in Chinese and Japanese cooking

soz·zled /ˈsɒzəld‖ˈsɑː-/ *adj* [F] *BrE humor* drunk

spa /spɑː/ also **watering place**— *n* **1** a place with a spring of mineral water where people come for cures of various diseases.

►CULTURAL NOTE Spas used to be very fashionable places in Britain, esp. in the 18th and 19th centuries, but now they are no longer popular with British people.◄

2 *AmE* JACUZZI **3** ‖ also **health spa** *AmE*— a GYMNASIUM which people usu. pay to use in order to keep fit, and which may include a swimming pool, exercise machines, etc.: *I've just joined the spa.*

space[1] /speɪs/ *n* **1** [U] something measurable in length, width, or depth; distance, area, or VOLUME that can be used or filled by a physical object; room: *There's not enough space in the cupboard for all my clothes.* | *We'll have to* **clear some space** *to make room for the new sofa.* | *Keep some space between you and the car ahead.* | *In the space of ten miles the road rises 1000 feet.* **2** [C;U] a quantity or bit of this for an often stated purpose: *I couldn't find a parking space.* | *You need permission to fly in that country's air space.* | *Where the book had been there was just an empty space.* | *Please save a space* (=an empty place) *for me in the queue.* **3** [U] that which surrounds all objects and continues outwards in all directions: *I don't think he saw me; he was just staring into space.* **4** [U] what is outside the Earth's air; where the stars and

PLANETS are: *The satellite has been in* **(outer) space** *for a year.* | *space travel* **5** [C;U] also **spaces** *pl.*– (an area of) land not built on: *the vast empty spaces of the prairies* | *This new town was planned to have some* **open space** *near the centre.* | *They hiked for miles across wide open spaces.* **6** [C;U] a period of time: *There's been a 100% increase in sales* **within/in/during the space of** *only two years.* **7** [C] **a** an area or distance left between written or printed words, lines, etc.: *Write your answers in the blank spaces/in the spaces provided.* **b** the width of a typed (TYPE) letter: *The word "the" takes three spaces.* –see also BREATHING SPACE

space[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*; *usu. pass.*] to place apart; arrange with spaces between: *The pictures in the gallery were well spaced out.* | *Space the desks two metres apart so that the pupils can't cheat.* | *We spaced our family out over five years.* (=left even periods of time between having babies during those years)

space-age /ˈ· ·/ *adj infml, usu. apprec* very modern

space bar /ˈ· ·/ *n* the part of a TYPEWRITER below the lowest row of keys that is pressed to make a space –see picture at TYPEWRITER

space cap·sule /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a vehicle which may carry people or animals, and travels into space to obtain information and then comes back to Earth

space·craft /ˈspeɪs-krɑːft‖-kræft/ *n* **spacecraft** a vehicle able to travel in SPACE[1] (4): *a manned spacecraft*

spaced out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* not fully conscious of what is happening around one, e.g. because of the effect of drugs

space heat·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an electric or FUEL-burning machine for heating an enclosed area or room

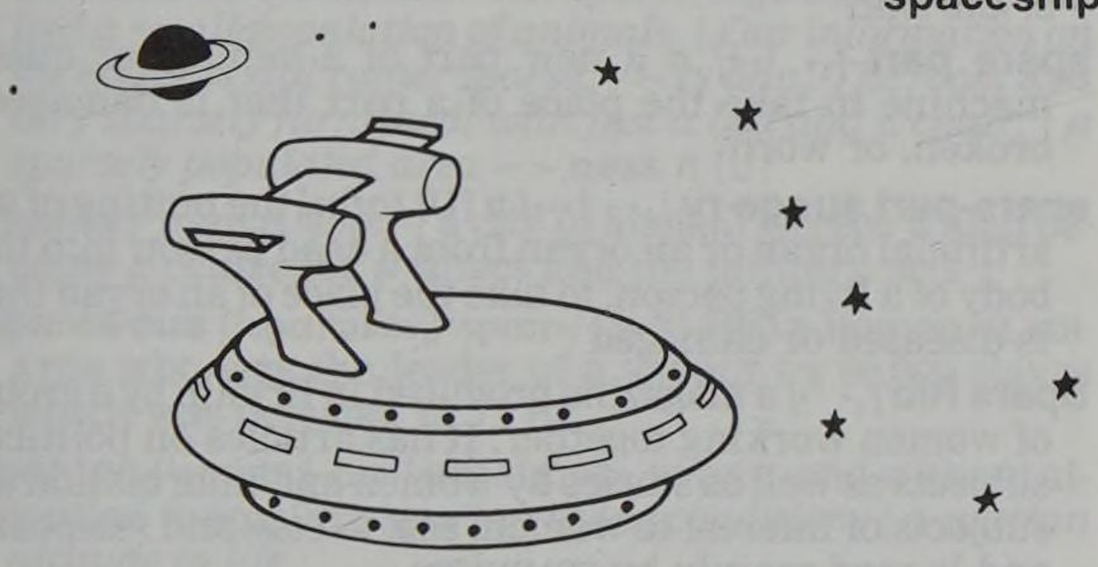
Space In·vad·ers /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a computer game often found in public places, in which the player tries to destroy attacking SPACESHIPS

Spa·cek /ˈspeɪsek/, **Sissy** (1949–) an American film actress known esp. for her part in the films *Carrie* and *Coal Miner's Daughter*

space·man /ˈspeɪsmæn/ **space·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.*– *n* **-men** /men/ **1** *infml for* ASTRONAUT **2** (esp. in stories) a being that visits the Earth from another world

space probe /ˈ· ·/ *n* a PROBE[1]

spaceship



space·ship /ˈspeɪsˌʃɪp/ *n* (esp. in stories) a spacecraft for carrying people through space, often imagined as looking like a FLYING SAUCER

space shut·tle /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a vehicle for **a** carrying people and supplies between the Earth and a space station **b** carrying people into space to do scientific EXPERIMENTS, put SATELLITES into space, etc.

space sta·tion /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a large spacecraft intended to stay above the Earth and act as a base for scientific tests, for flying further out into space, etc.

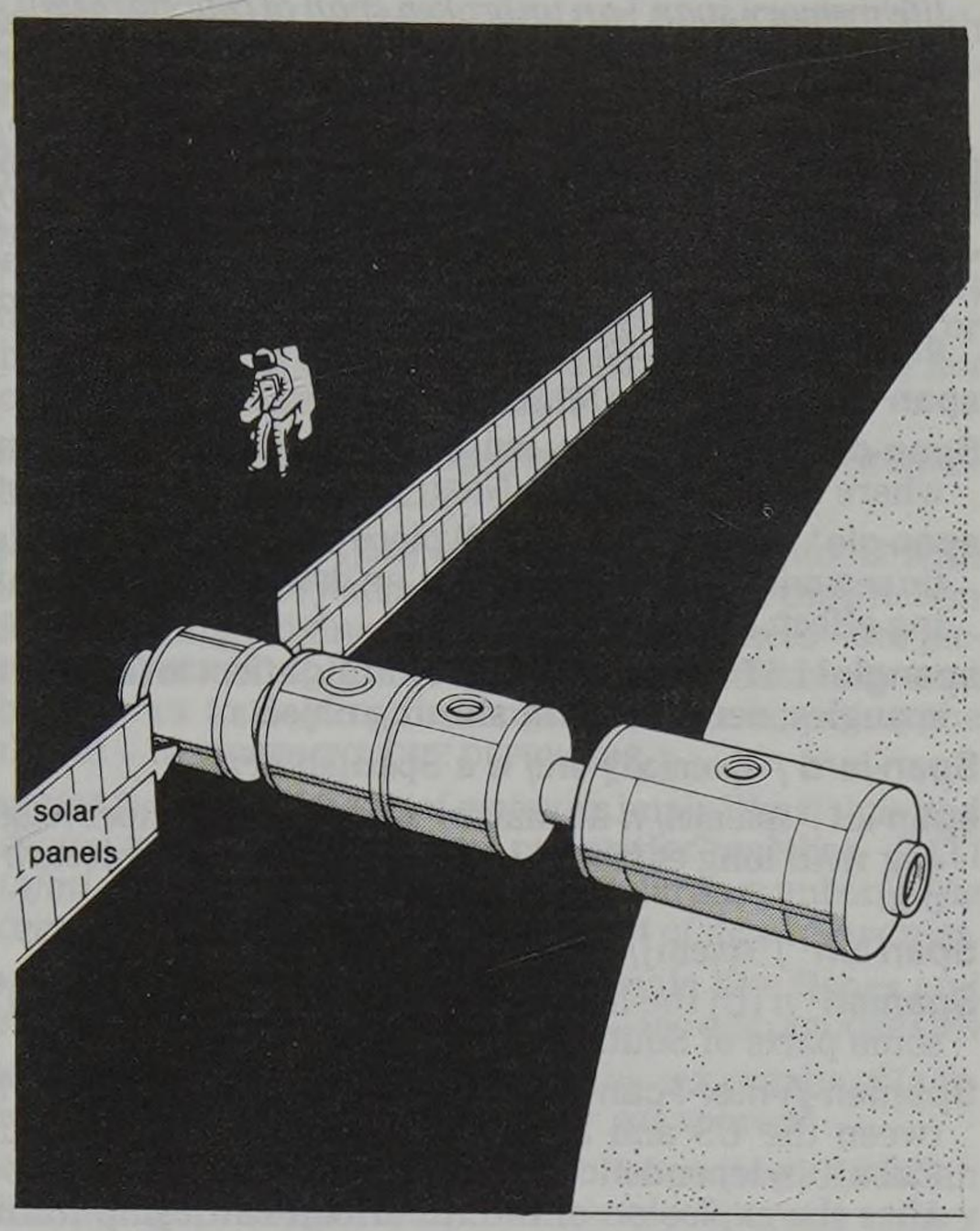
space·suit /ˈspeɪs-suːt, -sjuːt‖-suːt/ *n* a protective suit for wearing in SPACE[1] (4), covering the whole body and provided with an air supply: *a leak in her spacesuit* –see picture at SUIT

space-time /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *tech* a system which has length, depth, height, and time

spac·ey /ˈspeɪsi/ *adj, adv AmE infml* not fully conscious of what is happening around one; behaving strangely, as if one were taking drugs: *He acts kind of spacey but he's really a nice guy.* | *The lady next door is pretty spacey; I'd never let her take care of the kids.*

spac·ing /ˈspeɪsɪŋ/ *n* [U] placement or arrangement apart, esp. of typed (TYPE) or printed lines: *Type this letter with/in* **single/double/triple spacing.** (=lines with no/one/two empty lines between them)

space station



spa·cious /ˈspeɪʃəs/ *adj apprec* having a lot of room; ROOMY: *a spacious office* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

spade[1] /speɪd/ *n* **1** a tool for digging earth, sand, etc., with a handle and a broad usu. metal blade for pushing into the ground with the foot: *a child's bucket and spade* –compare SHOVEL[1] (1), and see picture at GARDEN **2** [(**of**)] also **spade·ful** /-fʊl/– the amount carried by this –see also **call a spade a spade** (CALL)

spade[2] *n* **1 a** a black figure shaped like a pointed leaf printed on a playing card **b** a card belonging to the SUIT (=set) of cards that have one or more of these figures printed on them: *the four/queen of spades* | *I only have two spades in my hand.* –see CARDS (USAGE) and see picture at CARDS **2** *old-fash derog sl* a black person (considered extremely offensive)

spade·work /ˈspeɪd-wɜːk ‖ -wɜːrk/ *n* [U] hard work done in preparation for an event or course of action: *I did all the spadework, then she came and finished it off and got all the credit.*

spa·ghet·ti /spəˈgeti/ *n* [U] Italian PASTA (=food made from flour mixed with water) in the shape of long strings, cooked in boiling water –compare MACARONI, TAGLIATELLE, VERMICELLI

Spaghetti Junc·tion /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* **1** *AmE* a place where a lot of roads cross over each other **2** a place in Birmingham in central England where a lot of roads meet and cross over each other

spaghetti west·ern /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a film about American COWBOYS in the Wild West esp. by an Italian director and made in Europe

Spain /speɪn/ a country in SW Europe, on the Iberian PENINSULA, which includes the Balearic and Canary islands; capital Madrid; population 38,811,000 (1989). Spain is a member of the EC and has a king, Juan Carlos, as well as a PRIME MINISTER. Spain is a very popular place for British people to go on holiday or even to live, and holidays to Spain are often very cheap, particularly those in special holiday towns like Benidorm. –see also BENIDORM, ETA[2], FRANCO, GIBRALTAR, SPANISH, SPANISH CIVIL WAR

spake /speɪk/ *old use or poet, past tense of* SPEAK

Spam /spæm/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of inexpensive tinned meat, usu. eaten cold, made mainly of PORK (=pig meat) and pink in colour. Spam was popular in Britain esp. during and after the Second World War, but is not eaten so much now. It is still quite popular in the US.

span[1] /spæn/ *past tense of* SPIN

span² *n* **1** a stretch between two limits, esp. in time; period: *Over a span of three years a surprising amount has been achieved.* **2** a length of time over which the stated thing continues or works well: *a short attention/life/memory span | an unbroken span of concentration* **3** a (part of a) bridge, arch, etc., between supports: *The bridge crosses the river in a single span. | the central span of the aqueduct* —compare SPREAD² (2); see also WINGSPAN

span³ *v* **-nn-** [T] **1** to form an arch or bridge over: *A bridge spanned the stream.* **2** to include in space or time; go from one end to the other end of: *His interests spanned a wide range of subjects. | The game has a history spanning three centuries.*

span⁴ *adj* see SPICK-AND-SPAN

Span·dau /ˈspændaʊ/ a prison in W Berlin, Germany, where Rudolf Hess, the Nazi war criminal, was kept

span·gle¹ /ˈspæŋgəl/ *n* a small piece of shiny metal or plastic sewn in large numbers esp. on dresses, to give a shining effect; SEQUIN

spangle² *v* [T (**with**)] to give a shining effect to (as if) with spangles; decorate with shining objects

Span·iard /ˈspænjəd‖-ərd/ *n* a Spanish person

span·iel /ˈspænjəl/ *n* a small or middle-sized short-legged dog with long ears and long wavy hair —see picture at DOG

Span·ish¹ /ˈspænɪʃ/ *adj* of Spain or its language

Spanish² *n* [U] the language spoken in Spain and also in some parts of South America

Spanish-A·mer·i·can War /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] (1898) a war between the US and Spain in which the US demanded Cuba's independence from Spain. The war began soon after the explosion of the American battleship **Maine** near Havana, Cuba. The US was successful in freeing Cuba, and gained the islands of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico, and thus became a world power. Theodore Roosevelt (a later president) first became famous through his military success in the Spanish-American War, when he led a group of volunteers (=unpaid workers) called the **Rough Riders**.

Spanish Civ·il War /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a war which was fought in Spain from 1936 to 1939 between the RIGHT-WING Nationalists and the LEFT-WING Loyalists. Many people from other countries joined the International Brigades to fight for the Loyalists, and for many young people of the 1930s saving Spain from the Nationalists was an important IDEAL. Many writers and poets wrote about the war or went to fight, including the American writer Ernest Hemingway. The Nationalists won the war and from the end of the war until 1975 Spain was ruled by the RIGHT-WING leader General Franco. —see also FRANCO

Spanish fly /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* a substance made from dried insects which is supposed to be an APHRODISIAC (=drug causing sexual excitement). It is talked about more often than it is seen or used.

Spanish in·flu·en·za /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ also **Spanish flu** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* an illness which killed many people all over the world in 1917 and 1918

Spanish Main /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a part of the coast of NW South America, from which Spanish ships carried gold back to Spain, esp. during the 16th and 17th centuries. Many of these ships were attacked by PIRATES, and there are many stories and films about the exciting adventures of the people who sailed round the Spanish Main.

Spanish ome·lette /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a thick OMELETTE made with cooked vegetables such as potatoes, onions, and peppers

spank¹ /spæŋk/ *v* [T] to strike (esp. a child) with quick force (as if) with the open hand, esp. on the BUTTOCKS —compare SMACK¹ (1) —**spank** *n* —**~ing** *n* [C;U] : *If you don't stop that noise, you'll get a spanking.*

spank² *v* [I+*adv/prep*, esp. ALONG] to go or esp. sail quickly

spank·ing¹ /ˈspæŋkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *apprec* quickly moving; BRISK: *to move at a spanking pace*

spanking² *adv infml* (used before adjectives like **new, clean, fine,** etc.) very; completely: *a spanking new car*

span·ner /ˈspænəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **wrench** *AmE*— *n* **1** a metal tool with jaws or a hollow end, for fitting over and twisting NUTS (2) —see also RING SPANNER, and see picture at TOOL **2 spanner in the works** *BrE infml* a cause of confusion or ruin to a plan or operation: *A sudden thunderstorm put/threw a spanner in the works and we had to abandon our plans for a day out.*

spar¹ /spɑːʳ/ *n* a thick pole, esp. one used on a ship to support sails or ropes —compare MAST (1)

spar² *v* **-rr-** [I (**with**)] **1** to BOX³ without hitting hard, esp. in practice (between **sparring partners**) or in testing an opponent's defence **2** to exchange words as if fighting or competing: *The two MPs were sparring with each other across the floor of the House.*

spare¹ /speəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** [(**for**)] to give up (someone or something that is not being used or is not needed); afford to give: *We're so busy that no one in the office can be spared for any other work. | Can you spare £5?* (=please give me £5) [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Can you spare me five minutes?* (=so that I can talk to you for a short time) | *"Have you got enough?" "Yes; we've got* **enough and to spare**." (=more than enough) **2** [*usu. in questions and negatives*] to keep from using, spending, etc.: *No trouble was spared to make sure the guests enjoyed themselves.* | **No expense was spared** *in providing the food and wine.* (=a lot of money was spent) **3** [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] to not give (someone) (something unwelcome): *It was a horrible accident — I'll spare you the details.* **4** [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] to save (someone) (need or trouble): *Use the telephone and spare yourself a visit.* **5** *esp. lit* to keep from punishing, harming, attacking, or killing: *Take my money but spare my life! | We give thanks to God that our leader was spared.* (=did not die) **6 spare someone's blushes** *infml* to avoid making someone feel silly and awkward, esp. by praising them too much **7 spare the rod and spoil the child** an old saying popular esp. in the 19th century in Britain, meaning that children need to be punished by being hit in order to grow into well-behaved adults **8 to spare** left over; not used or needed for use: *We have just enough money to buy it, with 11 pence to spare. | I've got a few moments to spare if you want to talk to me.* —see also UNSPARING

spare² *adj* **1** not in use but kept for use if needed: *a spare tyre/bedroom* **2** not needed for use; free: *What do you like doing in your* **spare time?** (=when you are not working or busy) | *Have you got a spare moment? There's something I'd like to discuss.* **3** rather thin; LEAN **4 go spare** *BrE infml* to become very anxious and/or angry

spare³ *n* **1** a second object of the same kind that is kept for possible use **2** a SPARE TYRE (1) **3** [*often pl.*] *BrE for* SPARE PART

spare part /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* a new part of a vehicle or other machine to take the place of a part that is damaged, broken, or worn

spare-part sur·ge·ry /ˌ· · ˈ···/ *n* [U] *infml* the putting of an artificial organ or an organ from a dead person into the body of a living person, to take the place of an organ that is diseased or damaged

Spare Rib /ˌ· ˈ·/ a magazine produced in Britain by a group of women working together. It has articles on political subjects as well as stories by women and information on subjects of interest to women, esp. RACISM and FEMINISM, and is read mainly by FEMINISTS.

spare·ribs /ˈspeəˌrɪbz/ *n* [P] (a dish of cooked) pig's RIBS with the meat which sticks to them

spare room /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a bedroom in a house, which the family does not need or use and which is usu. kept for guests

spare tyre /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* **1** also **spare wheel, spare**— an additional tyre carried in a vehicle for use if one of the tyres on the wheels is damaged **2** *humor* a noticeably fat waist

spar·ing /ˈspeərɪŋ/ *adj* [(**with, in, of**)] using or giving little; FRUGAL: *Whisky's expensive, so be sparing with it. | He was rather sparing in giving praise.* —**~ly** *adv* : *There's not much left, so use it sparingly.*

spark¹ /spɑːk‖spɑːrk/ *n* **1** a small bit of burning material thrown out by a fire or by the striking together of two hard objects: *Sparks flew into the air as the burning building collapsed.* | (fig.) *They've always hated each other, and whenever they meet* **the sparks fly.** (=there is angry quarrelling) | (fig.) *The murder of the ambassador was the spark that set off the war.* **2** a flash of light produced by electricity passing across a space **3** [(**of**)] a very small but important bit, esp. of a quality; TRACE: *If you had a spark of consideration for your family you wouldn't take so many stupid risks. | We couldn't even raise a spark of interest/enthusiasm for our plan.* —see also SPARKS, BRIGHT SPARK

spark[2] *v* **1** [I] to produce a SPARK (1,2) **2** [T (OFF)] to be the cause of (esp. something violent or unpleasant); lead to: *This accidental killing sparked (off) major riots in the cities.* **3** [T] *esp. AmE* to encourage; STIMULATE into greater activity: *It was this incident that sparked her interest in politics.* **4** [I] *AmE infml old-fash* to pay attention to a man or woman one likes and perhaps hopes to marry; FLIRT: *They were sparking by the gate when her father called her to come in.*

Spark, Mu·ri·el /ˈmjʊəriəl/ (1918–) a Scottish writer known esp. for her book *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

spar·kle[1] /ˈspɑːkəl‖ˈspɑːr-/ *v* [I] to shine in small flashes: *Her diamonds sparkled in the sunlight.* | (fig.) *His eyes sparkled with merriment* —see also SPARKLING

sparkle[2] *n* [C;U] an act or the quality of sparkling: *the sparkle of a diamond* | (fig.) *The new play didn't have much sparkle to it.* (=was rather dull)

spar·kler /ˈspɑːklə^{r}‖ˈspɑːr-/ *n* **1** a hand-held FIREWORK, usu. held by children, in the form of a stick with chemicals stuck to it that give off harmless bright sparks of fire as it burns down. In Britain, sparklers are sold only in the weeks before Guy Fawkes Night and only to people over the age of 16. In the US, they are only sold before the Fourth of July but in some areas they are illegal. **2** *sl* a diamond

spark·ling /ˈspɑːklɪŋ‖ˈspɑːr-/ *adj apprec* full of life and brightness: *She gave a sparkling performance of the sonata.* | *sparkling wit*

sparkling wine /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a type of wine which gives off BUBBLES of gas. Wine like this made in the Champagne area of France is called Champagne. No other sparkling wine can be called Champagne.

spark plug /ˈ· ·/ also **sparking plug** /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *BrE*— *n* a part that screws into a petrol engine and makes an electric SPARK[1] (2) to explode the petrol mixture —see picture at ENGINE

sparks /spɑːks‖spɑːrks/ *n old-fash sl* an electrician or radio OPERATOR

spar·row /ˈspærəʊ/ *n* a small brownish bird very common in many parts of the world —see also HEDGE SPARROW, HOUSE SPARROW, and see picture at BIRD

sparse /spɑːs‖spɑːrs/ *adj* with only a few scattered examples in a large area; not growing or existing in large amounts or quantities: *The sparse vegetation will only feed a small population of animals.* | *Our information on the events is still rather sparse.* —~**ly** *adv*: *The room was very sparsely furnished, with just a bed and a chair.* | *a sparsely populated area* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Spar·ta /ˈspɑːtə‖ˈspɑːr-/ a city of ancient Greece which became a centre for soldiers and the military arts

Spar·ta·cus /ˈspɑːtəkəs‖ˈspɑːr-/ (?–71 BC) a Roman GLADIATOR who was the leader of a REVOLT by 90,000 slaves which was defeated in 72 BC

spar·tan /ˈspɑːtn‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* simple, severe, and without attention to comfort: *spartan living conditions* | *a spartan attitude to life*

spas·m /ˈspæzəm/ *n* **1** a sudden uncontrolled tightening of muscles: *a muscle spasm* | *If breathing is not restored, the patient may go* **into spasm.** **2** [(**of**)] a sudden violent effort, feeling, or act: *spasms of grief|laughter|coughing*

spas·mod·ic /spæzˈmɒdɪk‖-ˈmɑː-/ *adj* **1** not continuous; showing short periods of activity; irregular: *His interest in his school work is rather spasmodic.* | *spasmodic bursts of energy* —compare PÉRIODIC **2** of or like a spasm: *a spasmodic jerk* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

spas·tic /ˈspæstɪk/ *n, adj* **1** (a person) suffering from a condition (**spastic paralysis**) in which some parts of the body will not move because the muscles stay tightened **2** *derog sl* (used esp. by children) (a person who is) foolish, lacking in skill, etc.

spat[1] /spæt/ *past tense & participle of* SPIT[1]

spat[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] a cloth covering for the ankle worn, esp. formerly, by men above a shoe, fastened by side buttons and a band under the shoe

spat[3] *n infml* a short unimportant quarrel

spate /speɪt/ *n* [S+**of**] **1** *esp. BrE* a large number or amount, esp. of events of the same kind, coming together in time: *There's been a spate of accidents on this stretch of road recently.* | *the recent spate of terrorist activity* **2** *esp. AmE* a large amount of words, feelings, etc. being expressed at once: *a spate of foul language* **3 in spate** flooding; full of rushing water: *a river in full spate*

spa·tial /ˈspeɪʃəl/ *adj tech or fml* of or connected with SPACE[1] (1): *This part of the brain judges the spatial relationships between objects.* —~**ly** *adv*

spat·ter[1] /ˈspætə^{r}/ *v* **1** [T] to scatter (drops of a liquid) on (a surface): [+*obj*+*prep*] *As the car raced past, it spattered mud on my clothes|in my face|all over my suit.* [+*obj*+**with**] *The car spattered me|my clothes with mud.* | *a blood-spattered wall* **2** [I (**on**)] (of a liquid) to fall or be thrown off in drops onto a surface: *A little of the hot cooking oil spattered on the wall.*

spatter[2] *n* **1** a spattered drop or spot **2** [*usu. sing.*] a small amount: *a spatter of rain*

spat·u·la /ˈspætjʊlə‖-tʃələ/ *n* **1** any of various tools with a wide flat not very sharp blade, used esp. in the kitchen for spreading, mixing, or lifting soft substances —see picture at KITCHEN **2** *BrE* a small tool with a flat blade used by doctors to flatten the tongue when examining the throat —compare TONGUE DEPRESSOR

spawn[1] /spɔːn/ *v* **1** [I;T] (of water animals like fishes and FROGS) to lay (eggs) in large quantities together **2** [T] *infml* to bring into existence, esp. in large numbers: *The computer industry has spawned a lot of new companies.*

spawn[2] *n* [U] the eggs of water animals like fishes and FROGS, laid together in a soft mass —see also FROGSPAWN

spay /speɪ/ *v* [T] to remove (part of) the sex organs of (a female animal): *Have you had your cat spayed?*

SPCK /ˌes piː siː ˈkeɪ/ Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; an organization which uses literature to try to spread the message of Christianity around the world

speak /spiːk/ *v* **spoke** /spəʊk/, **spoken** /ˈspəʊkən/ **1** [I (**to, with, about**)] to express thoughts aloud, using the voice; talk: *I was so shocked I couldn't speak.* | *They sat down opposite each other, but it was some moments before they spoke.* (=had a conversation) | *I'd like to speak to|with you about my idea.* | *Is that the man you spoke of?* (=told me about) | *After their quarrel they're still not speaking (to each other)|not* **on speaking terms.** (=willing to talk and be polite to each other) | *Speaking (in my capacity) as chairman, I am in favour of this idea.* —see USAGE **2** [T] to express or say: *Do you think he was speaking the truth?* | *Not a word was spoken about the embarrassing affair.* | *I'd like to meet his daughter; everyone* **speaks very well|highly of** *her.* (=praises her) | *You mustn't* **speak ill of** (=say unkind things about) *the dead.* **3** [T] to be able to talk in (a language): *Do you speak English?* | *English is spoken here.* | *We need a French-speaking secretary.* **4** [I (**to, about, on**)] to make a speech: *I've invited her to speak to the club on|about her experiences in Central America.* | *He spoke in favour of|against the motion.* —see also SPEAKER **5** [I (**of**)] to express thoughts, ideas, etc., in some other way than by talking: *Actions speak louder than words.* | *Everything at the party spoke of* (=showed that there probably had been) *careful planning.* **6** [I+*adv*] (only in the present participle) to express one's meaning from the stated point of view: *Generally speaking, I think you're right.* | *The show may make big profits, but artistically speaking* (=from an artistic point of view) *it's terrible.* **7 speak now, or forever hold your peace** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the Christian marriage service, now often used humorously to say that if someone objects to something they should say so immediately or not at all **8 so to speak** *infml* (used when one uses an unusual or METAPHORICAL expression) as one might say; rather: *That baker knows which side his bread is buttered* (=knows what will be of most advantage to himself)*, so to speak!* **9 speak in tongues** to say words or sounds that cannot be understood, esp. when in a state of great excitement during a Christian religious ceremony: *We sometimes speak in tongues during the service.* **10 speak one's mind** to express one's thoughts (too) directly: *I'm furious about it, and I intend to speak my mind to the company chairman.* **11 speak out of turn** to speak at the wrong time or in an unwise or impolite way **12 speak volumes (for)** *infml* to show or express (something) very clearly or fully: *He refused to answer their accusations, but his silence spoke volumes.* (=strongly suggested his guilt) **13 to speak of** [*usu. negative*] worth mentioning; of much value: *We've had*

no rain to speak of, only a few drops. —see also **in a manner of speaking** (MANNER)

▷ USAGE 1 To **speak of** *something* is rather more formal than to **speak about** *it.* 2 In British English it is more usual to **speak to** *someone* than to **speak with** *someone,* which suggests a long, formal talk. But in American English, **speak with** is used more generally. —see also SAY (USAGE), TALK (USAGE)◁

speak for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to express the thoughts, opinions, etc., of: *That lawyer is speaking for the defence|the prosecution.* | *"Tom and I aren't very good at maths." "***Speak for yourself!***" said Tom.* (="I'm good at maths, even if you aren't!") | *I'm ready to decide, but I can't speak for my colleagues.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to get the right to (something) in advance; RESERVE: *The first 300 cars in the new model have already been spoken for.* **3** to be a witness of; give an idea of: *Their manners speak well for their upbringing.* (=show it was good) **4 speak for itself/themselves** to be very clear and need no further explanation or proof: *The company has had a very successful year: the figures speak for themselves.* —see also SPOKEN FOR

speak out *phr v* [I (**against**)] to speak bravely and openly, esp. after remaining silent for a time: *Will no one speak out against the tyranny of this government?*

speak to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml euph* to speak severely to: *He was late again today; it's time you spoke to him|time he was spoken to!*

speak up *phr v* [I] **1** to speak more loudly: *Speak up, please; I can't hear you.* **2** [(**for**)] to give one's opinion freely and clearly : *It's about time someone spoke up for* (=supported openly) *these basic truths.*

-speak see WORD FORMATION

speak·eas·y /ˈspiːkˌiːzi/ *n* (esp. in the US in the 1920s and 1930s) a place for going to buy and drink alcohol illegally. Speakeasies were often connected with GANGSTERS and seen as exciting, wicked places. —see also PROHIBITION

speak·er /ˈspiːkəʳ/ *n* **1** a person making a speech, or who makes speeches in a stated way: *Our first speaker tonight is Mr Postlethwaite.* | *an entertaining after-dinner speaker* **2** [(**of**)] a person who speaks a particular language: *a speaker of English|an English speaker* **3** that part of a radio or record player from which sound comes out: *a pair of speakers* —see picture at LIVING ROOM

Speaker *n* a British parliamentary official who is elected by Members of Parliament and whose job is to keep order during discussions in the House of Commons. The Speaker must not give any advantages to a particular political party: *the Speaker of the House of Commons* | *I'd like to propose a motion, Mr Speaker.*

Speaker of the House /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ *n* the person who controls the course of business in the US House of Representatives. He is suggested for the position by the party which holds the most seats and is voted on by all members of the House.

Speaker's Cor·ner /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a part of Hyde Park in London where people go when they want to tell other people about their political opinions. Anyone can go there and make a speech about any subject they like and other people will listen to them and sometimes argue with them.

speaking clock /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a telephone service in Britain which continuously tells the time

speaking tube /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a pipe through which people in different rooms in a house, on a ship, etc., may speak to one another

spear[1] /spɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a pole with a sharp point at one end used esp. formerly by soldiers and hunters as a weapon: *to hurl a spear* **2** a young thin pointed leaf or stem growing directly from the ground: *asparagus spears*

spear[2] *v* [T] to make a hole in or catch (as if) with the point of a spear: *He reached out and speared a piece of her meat with his fork.* | *The hunters were spearing fish in the stream.*

spear·head[1] /ˈspɪəhed‖ˈspɪər-/ *n* [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] a person or group that begins and leads an attack or course of action forcefully

spearhead[2] *v* [T] to lead forcefully: *Which of the opposition parties is going to spearhead the attack on the government?*

spear·mint /ˈspɪəˌmɪnt‖ˈspɪər-/ *n* [U] a common MINT[1] (1) plant widely grown and used for its fresh taste: *spearmint chewing gum* | *spearmint(-flavoured) toothpaste*

spec /spek/ *n* **on spec** *BrE infml* as a risk or SPECULATION (2): *I bought some oil shares on spec.* | *We haven't booked a hotel in advance, we're going on spec.*

spe·cial[1] /ˈspeʃəl/ *adj* **1** of a particular kind; not ordinary, regular, or usual: *This is a special case, deserving special treatment.* | *They've put on a special train to take the supporters to the match.* | *children with special educational needs* | *Why should you get more than anyone else? What's so special about you?* | *I only wear this suit on special occasions.* **2** also **especial** *fml*– particularly great; to an unusually great degree: *She's a special friend of mine.* | *Take special care tonight because the roads are icy.* —see also SPECIALLY

special[2] *n* **1** something that is not of the regular or ordinary kind: *Are you going to the match on the football special or the ordinary train?* | *a two-hour television special on the African famine* **2** *AmE infml* an advertised reduced price in a shop: *They're having a special on ice cream this week.* | *Ice cream is* **on special** *this week only!*

special a·gent /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **FBI agent**– *n AmE* a person who works for the FBI

Special Branch /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [(*the*)] a department of the British police force concerned with crimes or other activities against the state or the political system

special con·sta·ble /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* (in Britain) a person who has another job but who is employed as a POLICEMAN or POLICEWOMAN when more help is needed

special de·liv·e·ry /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* a letter or parcel for which additional money is paid so that it will arrive later or earlier in the day than the usual time —**special delivery** *adv* : *I sent it special delivery.*

special ef·fect /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* an image or sound in a film or television programme that was made by a person or a machine: *The special effects in Star Wars broke new ground in the film industry.*

special forc·es /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [P] soldiers who have special training in fighting against GUERRILLA or TERRORIST attackers

special in·terest group /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [C +*sing./pl. v*] a group of people that share an INTEREST, esp. an organization that attempts to influence government action; a PRESSURE GROUP

spe·ci·al·ism /ˈspeʃəlɪzəm/ *n* **1** [C] an activity in which someone specializes; SPECIALITY (1) **2** [U] limiting one's activities to particular things or subjects

spe·cial·ist /ˈspeʃəlɨst/ *n* [(**in**)] **1** a person who has special interests or skills in a limited field of work or study: *a specialist in African history* **2** a doctor who gives treatment in a particular way or to certain kinds of people or diseases: *Her local doctor couldn't tell what was wrong, so he sent her to see a specialist.* | *a heart specialist*

spe·ci·al·i·ty /ˌspeʃiˈælɨti/ ‖ usu. **spe·cial·ty** /ˈspeʃəlti/ *AmE*– *n* **1** a special field of work or study: *Her speciality is ancient Greek poetry.* **2** [(**of**)] a particularly fine or excellent product: *I can recommend the vegetable pie – it's the* **speciality of the house.** (=restaurant)

spe·cial·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈspeʃəlaɪz/ *v* [I (**in**)] to limit all or most of one's study, business, etc., to a particular activity or subject: *After she qualified as a lawyer, she decided to specialize in contract law.* | *a company that specializes in (producing) home computers* —**-ization** /ˌspeʃəlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [C;U] : *There is too much specialization of subjects too early in our schools.*

spe·cial·ized also **-ised** *BrE* /ˈspeʃəlaɪzd/ *adj* suitable or developed for one particular use: *Don't try doing it yourself; it requires specialized knowledge|highly specialized equipment.*

special li·cence /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n law* an official permission given by the Church of England for a marriage at a time or place not usu. allowed

spe·cial·ly /ˈspeʃəli/ *adv* ESPECIALLY

special needs /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] needs that a person has because they have particular mental or physical problems: *a school for children with special needs*

Special O·lym·pics /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ [*the* +P] a number of sports events and games arranged for children and adults who have mental or physical problems: *A boy with Down's Syndrome won a gold medal in swimming in the Special Olympics.*

special plead·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] argument that unfairly fails to mention things that are unfavourable to a case

special re·la·tion·ship /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* the special close relationship between Britain and the US

special school /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n tech* a school for children who have a disability of mind or body, where they are given special help

spe·cies /ˈspiːʃiːz/ *n* **-cies** **1** *tech* a division of animals or plants below a GENUS, which are alike in all important ways, and which can breed together to produce young of the same kind: *This rare bird has become an* **endangered species**. (=is in danger of becoming EXTINCT) **2** [**(of)**] *infml* a type; sort: *a strange species of car*

spe·cif·ic[1] /spəˈsɪfɪk/ *adj* **1** detailed and exact; clear in meaning or explanation: *You say your factory is in England; can you be a bit more specific?* | *She gave us very specific instructions.* **2** [A] particular; fixed, determined, or named: *There's a specific tool for each job.* **3** [F+**to**] limited to; found only in: *This disease is specific to horses.* —~**ity** /ˌspesəˈfɪsəti/ *n* [U] *fml*

specific[2] *n* [**(for)**] *tech* a drug that has an effect on a particular disease —see also SPECIFICS

spe·cif·ic·ally /spəˈsɪfɪkli/ *adv* **1** of the stated kind and no other; particularly: *The book was written specifically for children.* | *It is not a specifically Christian idea but is found in many religions.* **2** exactly and clearly: *The police specifically told you to avoid the main road, so why are you on it?* **3** speaking more exactly; NAMELY: *Several countries, specifically the US, Britain, and France, have signed the agreement.*

spe·ci·fi·ca·tion /ˌspesəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] also **specifications** *pl.*— a detailed plan or set of descriptions or directions: *The new missile has been built according to strict government specifications.* | *The designer drew up his specifications for the new car.* **2** [U **(of)**] the act of specifying

specific grav·i·ty /·ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n tech* the weight of a substance divided by the weight of the amount of water that would fill the same space; DENSITY (2) compared with water

spe·cif·ics /spəˈsɪfɪks/ *n* [P] matters to be decided exactly; details: *Now that we've agreed on the general principles, let's get down to specifics and formulate a plan.*

spe·ci·fy /ˈspesəfaɪ/ *v* [T] to state exactly; describe fully so as to choose or name: *I specified blue for the bedroom walls, but the decorators have painted them white.* [+*wh-*] *Did you specify where the new office furniture was to be put?* [+*that*] *The rules clearly specify that competitors are not allowed to accept payment.*

spe·ci·men /ˈspesəmən/ *n* **1** [**(of)**] a single typical thing or example: *This is a very fine specimen of the oak.* (=is a very fine OAK tree) **2** [**(of)**] a piece or amount of something for being shown, tested, etc.; SAMPLE: *The doctor will need a specimen of your blood.* | *The botanist mounted his specimens* (=pieces of plants) *on slides and examined them under a microscope.* **3** *infml derog* a person of the stated usu. undesirable kind: *Who's that revolting specimen your daughter's going out with?*

spe·cious /ˈspiːʃəs/ *adj fml derog* seeming right or correct but not so in fact: *a specious argument* | *specious logic* — compare SPURIOUS —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

speck /spek/ *n* [**(of)**] a very small piece, spot, or coloured mark: *I've got a speck of dirt on my shirt|a speck of dust in my eye.* | (fig.) *The car accelerated away and was soon just a speck on the horizon.* —see picture at PIECE

speck·le /ˈspekəl/ *n* a small irregular mark; coloured speck, esp. in a large number covering a surface —**-led** *adj* : *speckled eggs*

spec·ta·cle /ˈspektəkəl/ *n* **1** a grand public show or scene: *The great military parade was a magnificent spectacle.* **2** [**(of)**] any unusual thing or situation to be seen and noticed: *We are now witnessing the curious spectacle of a government being attacked by its own supporters.* **3** an object of laughter, disrespect, or pity: *Take that ridiculous hat off and stop* **making a spectacle of** *yourself.*

spec·ta·cles /ˈspektəkəlz/ also **specs** /speks/ *infml*— *n* [P] *rather fml* GLASSES to help people to see: *I must get a new pair of spectacles|some new spectacles.* —see also **rose-coloured spectacles** (ROSE-COLOURED); see picture at GLASSES

spec·tac·u·lar[1] /spekˈtækjʊlər/ *adj* unusually interesting or grand; attracting excited notice; very IMPRESSIVE: *There was a spectacular explosion when the firework factory blew up.* | *The new play was a spectacular success.* | *a spectacular waterfall* —~**ly** *adv*

spectacular[2] *n* a spectacular entertainment: *a television spectacular with lots of famous stars*

spec·tate /spekˈteɪt‖ˈspekteɪt/ *v* [I **(at)**] to be present as a spectator; watch

spec·ta·tor /spekˈteɪtər‖ˈspekteɪtər/ *n* a person who watches esp. an event or sport without taking part: *The big match attracted 25,000 spectators.* | *Football is our most popular* **spectator sport.** (=sport that people go and watch) —see ATTEND (USAGE)

Spectator [*the*] a magazine with high-quality WRITING about politics, CURRENT AFFAIRS, and the ARTS. It was started in 1711 by Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele. Different VERSIONS of it are sold in Britain and the US.

Spec·tor /ˈspektər/, **Phil** /fɪl/ (1940–) an American popular music RECORD PRODUCER and songwriter

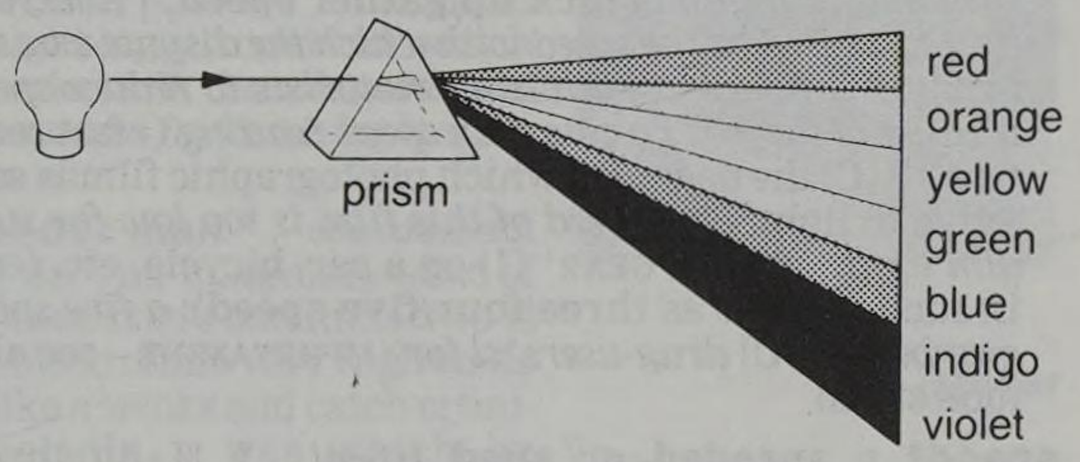
spec·tral /ˈspektrəl/ *adj* **1** of or like a spectre: *spectral writing|fingers* **2** [*no comp.*] *tech* of or made by a SPECTRUM (1,2)

spec·tre *BrE* ‖ **-ter** *AmE* /ˈspektər/ *n fml or lit* **1** a spirit without a body; GHOST **2** [**(of)**] something that is seen in the imagination and causes fear: *The spectre of unemployment haunted|stalked the land.*

spec·tro·scope /ˈspektrəskəʊp/ *n* an apparatus for forming and looking at spectra (SPECTRUM (1)) —**-scopic** /ˌspektrəˈskɒpɪk◂‖-ˈskɑː-/ *adj*

spec·tros·cop·y /spekˈtrɒskəpi‖-ˈtrɑː-/ *n* [U] the use of a spectroscope

spectrum



spec·trum /ˈspektrəm/ *n* **-tra** /trə/ **1** a set of bands of coloured light in the order of their WAVELENGTHS, into which a beam of light may be separated, e.g. by a PRISM (2): *Red and violet are at opposite ends of the spectrum.* **2** a range of any of various kinds of waves: *a radio|sound spectrum* **3** a broad and continuous range: *There's a wide spectrum of opinion(s) on this question.* | *Our speakers tonight come from both ends of the political spectrum.*

spec·u·late /ˈspekjʊleɪt/ *v* **1** [I **(about, on)**; T+*that*; *obj*] to think about or talk about a matter without having the necessary facts; make guesses: *We don't know all the circumstances, so it would be pointless to speculate (on what happened).* | *The police are speculating that this incident may be linked to a similar attack two weeks ago.* **2** [I **(in)**] to buy or deal in goods, SHARES[1] (2), etc., whose future price is still uncertain, in the hope of a large profit: *He'd been speculating in gold shares, and lost a lot of money.* —**-lator** *n* : *property speculators*

spec·u·la·tion /ˌspekjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an example of) the act of speculating: *His remarks have led to intense speculation about the possibility of tax cuts.* | *She has dismissed the rumours of her resignation as pure speculation.*| *It's not a matter for speculation.* | [+*that*] *There's some speculation that the Prime Minister already knew of the scandal.* **2** (a case of) buying and selling in the hope of profit from price rises rather than from actual business earnings: *property speculation*

spec·u·la·tive /ˈspekjʊlətɪv‖-leɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** of or based on speculation: *a speculative guess|purchase* **2** [A *no comp.*] based on reason alone and not facts about the world: *speculative philosophy* —~**ly** *adv*

sped /sped/ *past tense & participle of* SPEED

speech /spiːtʃ/ *n* **1** [U] the act or power of speaking; spoken language: *Only human beings are capable of speech.* | *She had a* **speech impediment.** (=could not speak properly) **2** [U] the way of speaking of a person or group: *I think young people are sometimes disrespectful/sloppy in their speech.* **3** [C (**to**)] an act of speaking formally to a group of listeners: *I had to* **give/make/deliver a speech** *to the Press Club.* | *The (text of the) minister's speech was sent to the newspapers in advance.* **4** [C] a usu. long set of lines for an actor to say in a play —see also DIRECT SPEECH, FIGURE OF SPEECH, INDIRECT SPEECH, PART OF SPEECH

speech day /ˈ· ·/ *n* a day once a year at a British school when parents come, speeches are made, and prizes are given out to children who have done well in their studies

spee·chi·fy /ˈspiːtʃəfaɪ/ *v* [I] *infml derog* to make a speech or speeches, esp. in a proud self-important way

speech·less /ˈspiːtʃləs/ *adj* [(**with**)] unable for the moment to speak because of strong feeling, shock, etc.: *I was speechless with anger.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

speech syn·the·siz·er /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* a computer system that can produce sounds similar to those of human speech

speech ther·a·py /ˌ· ˈ···, ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* [U] treatment for helping people with various kinds of difficulties in speaking properly —**pist** *n*

speed[1] /spiːd/ *n* **1** [C;U] a (rate of movement) calculated by dividing the distance travelled by the time taken: *We were driving along at a slow but steady speed of about 30 mph.* | *This plane can reach speeds in excess of 2000 kilometres an hour.* | *We can't go any faster – we're already at top/full speed.* | *running/driving at* **breakneck speed** (=extremely fast) | *to travel at the speed of light/sound* **2** [U] quickness of movement or action: *When we're travelling* **at speed** (=fast) *the passing countryside just seems a blur.* | *Work is progressing* **at full/top speed.** (=as fast as possible) | *The train pulled out of the station and began to* **pick up/gather speed.** | *Everyone was surprised by the speed with which the dispute was settled.* | *The police are advising motorists to reduce speed because of the fog.* | *a course in speed-reading* (=fast reading) **3** [C] the degree to which photographic film is sensitive to light: *The speed of this film is too low for such dim light.* **4** [C] a GEAR[1] (1) on a car, bicycle, etc. (esp. in such phrases as **three/four/five-speed**): *a five-speed gearbox* **5** [U] *drug-users' sl for* AMPHETAMINE —see also HIGH-SPEED

speed[2] *v* **speeded** *or* **sped** /sped/ **1** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to go, pass, or take quickly: *The holidays simply sped by.* | *We saw the thieves speeding off in their getaway car.* | *Security guards sped her to a waiting helicopter.* **2** [I *usu. in progressive forms*] to go or drive too fast; break the speed limit: *Was I really speeding, officer?* **3 speed someone on their way** to be present at the start of someone's journey to say goodbye

speed up *phr v* [I;T(=**speed** sthg.↔**up**)] to (cause to) move, go, or happen faster: *We'd better speed up if we want to get there in time.* | *Production of the new model must be speeded up.* | *The new system will speed up the process of applying for a passport.* —**speed-up** /ˈ· ·/ *n*

speed·boat /ˈspiːdbəʊt/ *n* a small power-driven boat built for high speed

speed bump /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* SLEEPING POLICEMAN

speed·ing /ˈspiːdɪŋ/ *n* [U] the offence of driving faster than the legal limit: *She was found guilty of speeding and fined £50.*

speed lim·it /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the fastest speed allowed by law on a particular stretch of road

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain the speed limit for driving on MOTORWAYS is 70 mph (= miles per hour) and the speed limit for driving in towns is 30 mph unless there is a traffic sign showing a different speed. In the US the speed limit on FREEWAYS is 55 mph, some HIGHWAYS have a speed limit of 65 mph, and the speed limit for driving on most city streets is usu. 35 mph. *You must keep within/not exceed the speed limit.* | *The police imposed a speed limit of 30 mph.*◄

speed of light /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] the speed at which light travels through space, which is 186,000 miles or 300,000 km per second

speed of sound /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] the speed at which sound travels, which varies according to what it is travelling through. It travels through the air at sea level, when the temperature is 0°C, at a rate of 1,088 feet or 331.6 metres per second.

speed·om·e·ter /spɪˈdɒmɪtəʳ, spiː-‖-ˈdɑː-/ also **spee·do** /ˈspiːdəʊ/*BrE infml*– *n* an instrument in a vehicle for showing how fast it is going —see picture at CAR

speed trap /ˈ· ·/ *n* a stretch of road watched by hidden policemen to catch drivers going too fast

speed·way /ˈspiːdweɪ/ *n* [C;U] (the sport of racing motorcycles or cars on) a closed racing track

speed·well /ˈspiːdwel/ *n* [U] a small European wild plant with light blue or white flowers

speed·y /ˈspiːdi/ *adj* going, working, or happening quickly or without delay: *a speedy little car.* | *The accusations brought a speedy denial.* | *We sent him a card that said "Best wishes for a speedy recovery".* —**ily** *adv* —**iness** *n* [U]

spe·le·ol·o·gy /ˌspiːliˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑːlə-/ *n* [U] **1** the scientific study of CAVES **2** *fml* the sport of walking and climbing in CAVES —**gist** *n* —**gical** /ˌspiːliəˈlɒdʒɪkəl‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj*

spell[1] /spel/ *v* **spelt** /spelt/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **spelled** *esp. AmE* **1** [I;T] to form (a word or words) by writing or naming letters in the correct order: *children learning to spell* | *The Americans spell some words differently from the British.* | *"How do you spell your name? Do you spell it with an i or a y?" "I spell it S-M-Y-T-H."* **2** [T *no pass.*] (of letters in order) to form (a word): *B-O-O-K spells "book".* **3** [T] *infml* to add up to (a usu. unpleasant result); mean: *This development could spell disaster for the steel industry.* —~**er** *n* : *I've always been a bad speller.*

spell sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to write or say (a word) letter by letter: *He spelt his name out for me.* **2** to explain in the clearest or most detailed way: *a report that spells out the government's plans for housing* | *I should have thought it was obvious, but if you want me to spell it out for you – I'm leaving you.* **3** *AmE* to write a whole word and not shorten it: *There are few occasions when Mr. or Jr. should be spelled out instead of abbreviated.*

spell[2] *n* **1** an unbroken period of time, esp. taken up with the stated activity, events, etc.: *There will be spells of sunshine/sunny spells this afternoon.* | *I had/did a spell in the army before I became a policeman.* | *After a short spell in hospital she was soon back at work.* **2** a usu. quickly-passing period of illness of the stated kind: *a coughing spell* | *a dizzy spell* **3** (in cricket) a period of bowling (BOWL[2] (16)) by a particular bowler: *Botham had a good spell after lunch.*

spell[3] *n* **1** [S] a condition caused by magical power; ENCHANTMENT: *The witch put the princess under a spell, and she fell asleep for ten years.* | (fig.) *The audience was hostile at first, but soon fell under the spell of her charming personality.* **2** [C] the magic words producing this condition: *to cast a spell over someone*

spell[4] *v* **spelled** [T] *esp. AustrE & AmE* to take the turn of; allow (someone else) to rest by taking over their work: *Let me spell you on duty so that you can have your coffee break.*

spell·bind /ˈspelbaɪnd/ *v* **-bound** /baʊnd/ [T] to hold the complete attention of; FASCINATE: *The children watched spellbound as the magician produced rabbits and pigeons from his hat.* | *a spellbinding performance* —~**er** *n*

spel·ler /ˈspeləʳ/ also **spelling book** /ˈ·· ·/– *n AmE* a book which helps teach children to spell words correctly

spell·ing /ˈspelɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the action of forming words correctly from letters, or the ability to do this: *Her spelling has improved.* **2** [C] an ordered set of letters forming a word: *The British and American spellings of "colour" are different.*

spelling bee /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a competition in which the winner is the person or group which correctly spells aloud the most words

spelt /spelt/ *past tense & participle of* SPELL

spe·lunk /spəˈlʌŋk/ *v* [I] *AmE* to go into rooms and passages under the ground (CAVES) as a sport —**ing** *n* : *He goes spelunking on weekends.* —**er** *n*

Spence /spens/, **Sir Basil** (1907–76) a Scottish ARCHITECT best known as the architect of Coventry Cathedral

spend /spend/ *v* **spent** /spent/ **1** [I;T (**on**)] to give out (money or something used instead of money) in payment for goods or services: *I'm good at spending but not at*

saving. | *There will have to be big cuts in government spending.* | *They spend a lot of money on advertising.* | *He spent all his winnings on a slap-up meal.* | *Would you spend £200 on a new coat?* | *The repairs cost quite a lot, but it was* **money well spent.** (=a sensible way of spending money) **2** [T+*obj*+*v-ing*|*adv*|*prep*] to pass or use (time): *We spent a pleasant hour or two talking with our friends.* | *He's spent half his life writing this book.* | *Where shall we spend our holidays?* | *He spent three years in prison.* **3** [T] *esp. lit* to wear out or use completely: *The storm soon spent itself*|*its force.* **4 spend a penny** *BrE euph for* URINATE

spend·a·hol·ic /ˌspendəˈhɒlɪk‖-ˈhɔː-/ also **compulsive shopper**– *n AmE* a person who is unable to stop spending money and buying more and more things

spend·er /ˈspendəʳ/ *n* a person who spends money in the stated amounts or ways: *This is a shop for* **big spenders.** (=is an expensive shop)

Spender, Sir Ste·phen /ˈstiːvən/ (1909–) an English poet and CRITIC whose books of poetry include *The Still Centre* and *The Generous Days*

spending mon·ey /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] POCKET MONEY

spend·thrift /ˈspendˌθrɪft/ *n derog* a person who spends money wastefully; EXTRAVAGANT person

Spen·ser /ˈspensəʳ/, **Ed·mund** /ˈedmənd/ (?1552–99) an English poet famous esp. for his EPIC poem *The Faerie Queene* which he never finished

spent[1] /spent/ *past tense & participle of* SPEND

spent[2] *adj* **1** already used; no longer for use: *spent cartridges* | *spent fuel rods from a nuclear-power plant* | (fig.) *Do you think Scottish nationalism is now a* **spent force**? (=no longer has power or influence) **2** [F] *lit* worn out; extremely tired

sperm /spɜːm‖spɜːrm/ *n* **sperm** *or* **sperms** **1** [C] a cell produced by the sex organs of a male animal, which usu. swims in a liquid and is able to unite with the female egg to produce new life **2** [U] the liquid from the male sex organs in which these swim; SEMEN

sper·ma·cet·i /ˌspɜːməˈsetiː‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] a solid oily substance found in the head of the sperm whale and used in making skin creams, candles, etc.

sper·ma·to·zo·a /ˌspɜːmətəˈzəʊə‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **-zoon** /ˈzəʊən/ *sing.* [P] *tech* sperms

sperm bank /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a place in which SEMEN is kept to be used in medical operations to help women to become PREGNANT

sper·mi·cide /ˈspɜːmɪˌsaɪd‖ˈspɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] a substance that kills sperms, used as a cream or liquid during the sex act for stopping women from becoming PREGNANT

sperm whale /ˈ· ·/ *n* a large WHALE which is hunted for the oil in its very large head, for fat, and for spermaceti

Sper·ry /ˈsperi/, **El·mer Am·brose** /ˈelməʳ ˈæmbrəʊz/ (1860–1930) an American engineer and inventor who developed several ways to help ships to stay on course, such as the Sperry AUTOPILOT

spew /spjuː/ *v* **1** [I+*adv*|*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] to (cause to) come out in a rush or flood: *Lava spewed forth from the volcano.* | *The burst pipe was spewing out dirty water.* | *a factory spewing toxic fumes into the atmosphere* **2** [I; T (UP)] *BrE sl for* VOMIT

SPF /ˌes piː ˈef/ Sun Protection Factor; a number which is written on a bottle of SUNTAN cream to show how much protection it gives from the sun. For example, SPF 15 gives high protection and SPF 3 gives low protection.

sphag·num /ˈsfægnəm/ *n* [C;U] any of a large group of MOSSes *growing in wet areas which can go to make up* PEAT and which are used by gardeners for packing plants

sphere /sfɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a round shape in space; ball-shaped mass; solid figure all points of which are equally distant from a centre: *The Earth is not a perfect sphere.* **2** an area or range of interest or activity: *a well-known personality in the sphere of broadcasting* | *Government is extending its* **sphere of influence** *to cover all parts of our lives.* **3** *old use or lit* any of the transparent shells containing stars, PLANETS, etc., that were formerly thought to turn around the Earth

-sphere see WORD FORMATION

spher·i·cal /ˈsferɪkəl/ *adj* having the shape of a sphere; ball-shaped

sphe·roid /ˈsfɪərɔɪd/ *n tech* a shape which is not quite a sphere, esp. one that is slightly longer in one direction and has two endpoints

sphinc·ter /ˈsfɪŋktəʳ/ *n med* a muscle which surrounds and can tighten to close a passage in the body: *the anal sphincter*

sphinx /sfɪŋks/ *n* an ancient Egyptian image of a lion, lying down, with a human head

Sphinx [*the*] **1** a very large and ancient sphinx at Al Jizah in Egypt which many people go to see **2** in GREEK MYTHOLOGY, a creature with the head of a woman and the body of a lion. She lay outside Thebes and killed people who could not answer her RIDDLE (=very difficult question). Oedipus answered the riddle, and the Sphinx killed herself.

spic, spik /spɪk/ *n AmE derog sl* a Spanish-speaking American, esp. a Puerto Rican (considered extremely offensive)

spice[1] /spaɪs/ *n* **1** [C;U] any of various vegetable products used, esp. in powder form, for giving a taste to other foods: *Pepper and nutmeg are spices.* | *a spice rack* **2** [S;U] interest or excitement, esp. as added to something else: *He put in a few risqué stories to add spice to the speech.* | *They say* **variety is the spice of life.** (=makes life more interesting)

spice[2] *v* [T (UP, **with**)] to add spice to

spick-and-span /ˌspɪk ən ˈspæn/ *adj* (of a room, house, etc.) completely clean and tidy again

spic·y /ˈspaɪsi/ *adj* **1** having or producing a pleasantly strong taste and smell; containing or tasting like SPICE (1): *hot spicy food* **2** exciting, esp. from being slightly shocking or rude: *spicy stories* –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

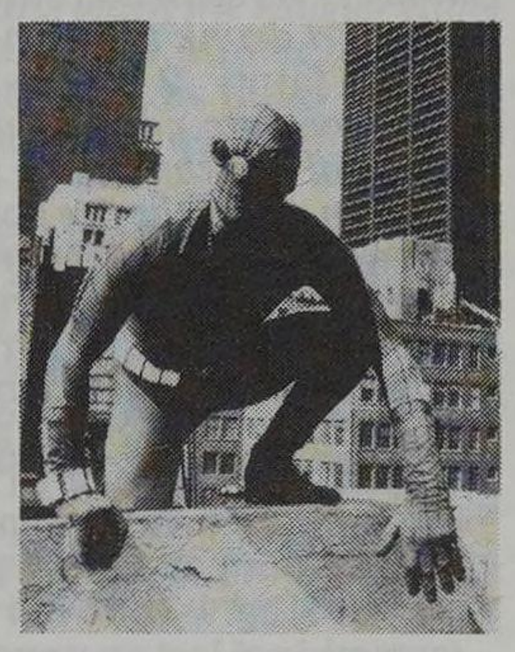
spi·der /ˈspaɪdəʳ/ *n* a small eight-legged creature which makes silk threads, usu. into COBWEBS for catching insects to eat

Spi·der·man /ˈspaɪdəmæn‖-dər-/ an imaginary HERO of COMIC STRIPS and films who is able to climb very high walls like a SPIDER and catch criminals in a WEB which he throws over them –compare SUPERMAN

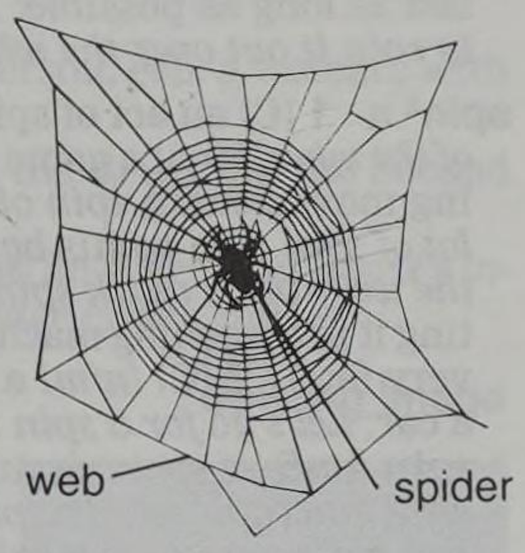
spi·der·web /ˈspaɪdəweb‖-dər-/ *n AmE for* COBWEB

spi·der·y /ˈspaɪdəri/ *adj* long and thin like a spider's legs: *the old lady's spidery writing*

spiel /ʃpiːl, spiːl/ *n* [C;U] *sl, usu. derog* fast talk, esp. intended to persuade: *the salesman's spiel*



Spiderman



spider

Spiel·berg /ˈspiːlbɜːg‖-bɜːrg/, **Ste·ven** /ˈstiːvən/ (1946–) an American film DIRECTOR who has made many very popular films, including *Jaws*, *ET*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and *Empire of the Sun*. His films are well-known for being very fast-moving and full of exciting action.

spig·ot /ˈspɪgət/ *n* **1** an apparatus for turning on and off a flow of liquid from a container, esp. a barrel **2** *esp. AmE* an outdoor TAP

spik /spɪk/ *n* a SPIC

spike[1] /spaɪk/ *n* **1** something long and thin with a sharp point, esp. a pointed piece of metal: *spikes along the top of a fence* **2** any of the metal points fixed in the bottom of a shoe for holding the ground, esp. in sports **3** *tech* (on a GRAPH) a sharp, esp. upward, point describing a change **4** the head of a grain-producing plant such as corn or wheat

spike[2] *v* [T] **1** to drive a spike or spikes into **2** [(**with**)] to add a strong alcoholic drink to (a weak or nonalcoholic one) **3** to stop (esp. an article in a newspaper) from being printed or spread: *The editor spiked the story.* | *The government spiked the rumour.* **4 spike someone's guns** *BrE infml* to prevent someone from attacking; take away an opponent's power

spik·y /ˈspaɪki/ *adj* **1** having long sharp points: *a spiky cactus* **2** *BrE infml* easily offended or annoyed

spill[1] /spɪl/ *v* **spilt** /spɪlt/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **spilled** *esp. AmE* – **1** [I;T] to (cause to) pour out accidentally, esp. over the edge of a container: *She slipped and the wine spilt all over her skirt.* | *I'm afraid I've spilt some coffee on the rug.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. OVER] to spread beyond limits: *The crowd spilt over from the church into the streets.* | *There is a danger that the conflict will spill over into the neighbouring towns.* –see also OVERSPILL **3** [T *often pass.*] *esp. lit* to cause (blood) to flow by wounding or killing: *A lot of blood was spilled in that battle.* **4 spill the beans** *infml* to tell a secret too soon or to the wrong person – see also **cry over spilt milk** (CRY)

spill[2] *n* **1** also **spil·lage** /ˈspɪlɪdʒ/– an act or amount of spilling: *oil spills* **2** *infml* a fall from a horse, bicycle, etc.: *She had a nasty spill when her horse shied.*

spill[3] *n* a thin piece of wood or twisted paper for lighting lamps, pipes, etc.

spill·way /ˈspɪlweɪ/ *n* a passage for water over or around a DAM (=wall for holding back water)

spin[1] /spɪn/ *v* **span** /spæn/*BrE or* **spun** /spʌn/, **spun**; *present participle* **spinning** **1** [I;T] to (cause to) turn round and round fast: *The wheel was spinning on its axle.* | *The teacher spun round to see who had spoken.* | *The steam spins a turbine to produce electricity.* | *The washing machine's spinning at the moment.* (=the part which contains the clothes is turning round fast to remove the water) | *We span the coin to see who would have first turn.* | (fig.) *I'd drunk so much my head was spinning.* (=I felt ill and faint) **2** [I;T] to make (thread) by twisting (cotton, wool, etc.): *Before weaving we spin the thread/spin the wool into thread.* | *a spinning mill* | (fig.) *The old sea captain sat by the fire* **spinning yarns**. (=telling stories) –see also SPINNING WHEEL **3** [T] to produce in a thread-like form: *This machine spins fibreglass.* | *The spider spins a web to catch flies.* | *spun gold/nylon* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to move fast on wheels: *We were spinning along at 80 miles per hour.*

spin sthg↔**off** *phr v* [T] **1** to produce as a SPIN-OFF **2** *esp. AmE* to form (a separate, partly-independent company) from parts of an existing company

spin sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**over**)] **1** *derog* to make (something) last an unnecessarily long time: *He span out his farewells so much that I thought he was never going.* | *She tried to spin the job out over two days.* **2** to cause to last as long as possible: *I've only got £10, and we've got to spin it out over the whole week.*

spin[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of spinning: *Try your luck on a spin of the wheel!* (=at a game of ROULETTE) **2** [S;U] fast turning movement: *a spin of ten turns per second* | *to put a lot of spin on a tennis ball when hitting it* | *I'll just give the washing a quick spin* (i.e. remove the water by putting it in a washing machine and causing it to turn round very fast) **3** [C] *infml* a short trip for pleasure, esp. in a car: *Let's go for a spin in my new car.* **4** [C] also **tail-spin** *AmE*– a steep circular fall by an aircraft: *The plane went into/came out of a spin.* **5** [S] *infml* a steep drop: *The bad news sent stock-market prices into a spin.* **6** [S] *BrE infml* a state of confused anxiety; PANIC: *He's really got himself into a spin over his driving test.* –see also FLAT SPIN **7** [S] *AmE infml* a way of providing information which makes it seem favourable to a particular person or political party: *They're trying to put a positive spin on the latest unemployment figures.* **8** [S] a property of an ELEMENTARY PARTICLE which influences its behaviour with other particles

spi·na bif·i·da /ˌspaɪnə ˈbɪfɪdə/ *n* [U] *med* a serious condition in which the SPINE (1) is split down the middle from birth, leaving the spinal cord unprotected

spin·ach /ˈspɪnɪdʒ, -ɪtʃ‖-ɪtʃ/ *n* [U] a vegetable whose soft loose green leaves can be eaten and which contains a lot of IRON.

►CULTURAL NOTE Children are sometimes told to eat spinach even if they do not like the taste because it is believed to be very good for their health. In a well-known CARTOON, the character Popeye eats spinach to make him strong. –see also POPEYE◄

spin·al /ˈspaɪnl/ *adj* of or for the SPINE (1): *spinal disease*

spinal col·umn /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* SPINE

spinal cord /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the thick cord of nerves enclosed in the SPINE (1) by which messages are carried to and from the brain

spin·dle /ˈspɪndl/ *n* **1** a machine part round which something turns **2** a round pointed rod used for twisting the thread in spinning

spin·dly /ˈspɪndli/ *adj* (esp. of a leg) long, thin, and weak-looking: *The young horse was standing unsteadily on its spindly legs.* | *spindly rose bushes*

spin doc·tor /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n esp. AmE infml* a person who makes information or events seem favourable to someone, esp. to a politician: *The White House spin doctors are hard at work explaining the President's about-face on taxes.*

spin-dry /ˌ· ˈ·/ *v* [T] *esp. BrE* to remove most of the water from (washed clothes) in a special machine (**spin-dryer** /ˌ· ˈ··/) that spins round and round very fast

spine /spaɪn/ *n* **1** also **backbone, spinal col·umn** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *fml* – the row of bones in the centre of the back of human beings and certain animals that supports the body and protects the SPINAL CORD –see picture at SKELETON **2** a stiff sharp-pointed plant or animal part; PRICKLE: *a hedgehog's/cactus's spines* –see also SPINY, and see picture at HEDGEHOG **3** the part of a book where the pages are fastened and the title is usu. printed

spine-chil·ling /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* very frightening but in a way that people enjoy: *a spine-chilling ghost story/horror movie*

spine·less /ˈspaɪnləs/ *adj* **1** *derog* without moral strength or courage: *I was too spineless to stand up to the boss, so I ended up working all weekend.* **2** (of an animal) having no SPINE (1) – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

spi·net /spɪˈnet‖ˈspɪnɪt/ *n* a small HARPSICHORD

spin·na·ker /ˈspɪnəkəʳ/ *n* a large three-sided sail that has a rounded shape when blown out by the wind, carried on some racing boats for going with the force of the wind –see picture at YACHT

spin·ner /ˈspɪnəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who SPINS thread for cloth **2 a** a cricket ball thrown with a spinning action **b** a BOWLER of such balls **3** a BAIT for catching fish that goes round and round when pulled through the water **4** (in some games) a movable pointer which is spun and stops at a point showing the number, kind, etc., of moves to be made –see also MONEY-SPINNER

spin·ney /ˈspɪni/ *n BrE* a small area full of trees and low-growing plants; COPSE

spinning jen·ny /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an industrial machine of former times allowing one person to spin a number of threads at once

spinning wheel /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small machine used esp. formerly at home to SPIN thread, in which a foot-driven wheel moves a SPINDLE

spin-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a usu. useful product or result of a process other than the main one; BY-PRODUCT –see also SPIN **off** **2** *AmE* a television programme involving characters which were originally in another programme: *The spin-off from "The Cosby Show" about the daughter at college wasn't on for very long.*

spin·ster /ˈspɪnstəʳ/ *n sometimes derog* an unmarried woman, usu. one who is no longer young and/or seems unlikely to marry –compare BACHELOR – ~**hood** *n* [U]

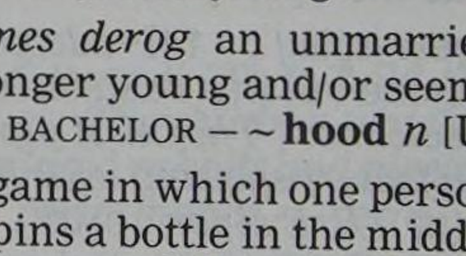
spin the bot·tle /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] a game in which one person of a group sitting in a circle spins a bottle in the middle and receives a kiss from the person of the opposite sex at whom the bottle points when it stops spinning

spin·y /ˈspaɪni/ *adj* like or full of SPINES (2): *a fish's spiny fins*

spi·ral[1] /ˈspaɪərəl/ *adj* in the form of a curve winding round and round a central point and continually moving closer towards it or further away from it: *a spiral watch-spring* | *a spiral nebula*

spiral[2] *n* **1** a spiral curve **2** a process of continuous upward or downward movement: *We are in danger of getting into an* **inflationary spiral**.

spirals



spiral[3] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I] **1** [+*adv/prep*] to move in a spiral course; rise or fall in a winding way: *The stairs spiralled round the central*

pillar. | *The damaged plane spiralled to earth.* **2** to fall or esp. rise continuously: *the spiralling cost of legal services*

spiral stair·case /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a set of stairs in the form of a spiral, built around a central COLUMN. They are found esp. in castles, churches, or large houses.

spire /spaɪəʳ/ *n* a roof rising steeply to a point on top of a tower, esp. on a church; (the top of a) STEEPLE —see also DREAMING SPIRES

spir·it[1] /ˈspɪrɨt/ *n* **1** [C] the part of a person's mind that is able to think and is **a** talked about as clearly opposed to the body: *He was tortured by the secret police; but they could not break his spirit.* | (fig.) *I can't come to your wedding, but I'll be there* **in spirit**. (=I'll be thinking about you at the time when it happens) **b** thought of as remaining alive, esp. without appearing in physical form: *He is dead, but his spirit lives on.* | *She was possessed by evil spirits.* —compare SOUL[1] (1); see also HOLY SPIRIT; see also **the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak** (FLESH) **2** [S **(of)**] the central quality or force of something: *He came to the party, but didn't really* **enter into the spirit** *of it.* (=did not try to enjoy it) | *You should try to obey* **the spirit of the law** (=the law's real intention) *even if you don't always follow its letter.* (=what it actually says) **3** [S] an intention or feeling in the mind; ATTITUDE: *I hope you will take my remarks in the spirit in which they were intended, and not be offended.* | *They came to the meeting in a spirit of genuine reconciliation.* **4** [U] *apprec* a quality of lively determination or brave effort: *She played the sonata with great spirit.* | *He fell over several times but, with considerable spirit, got up and finished the race.* **5** [U] strongly-felt loyalty to the stated group of which one is a member: *team/community spirit* —see also PUBLIC SPIRIT **6** [C] a person thought of because of a particular quality or activity: *one of the leading spirits of the party* **7** also **spirits** *pl.* — [C] a strong alcoholic drink produced by distillation (DISTIL): *Whisky is a spirit, and so is brandy.* | *I never drink spirits.* **8** also **spirits** *pl.*— [U] any of various liquids, such as alcohol, used esp. for breaking down solids or as FUELS —see also METHYLATED SPIRITS, WHITE SPIRIT **9** **-spirited** /spɪrɨtɨd/having the stated feelings or SPIRITS: *mean-spirited* | *public-spirited* | *high-spirited* —see also LOW-SPIRITED, SPIRITS

spirit[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to take in a secret or mysterious way: *The actress was spirited off/away in a car before the reporters could get to her.*

spir·it·ed /ˈspɪrɨtɨd/ *adj apprec* full of SPIRIT[1] (4); forceful: *a spirited quarrel* | *a spirited defence of his policies* | *a spirited horse*

spir·it·less /ˈspɪrɨtləs/ *adj* **1** weak or lazy; without SPIRIT[1] (4) **2** sad; not cheerful; in low SPIRITS — ~**ness** *n* [U]

spirit lev·el /ˈ·· ˌ··/ ‖ also **level** *AmE*— *n* a tool for testing whether a surface is level, made of a bar containing a short glass tube of liquid with a BUBBLE which will be in the centre if the surface is level

Spirit of St. Lou·is /ˌspɪrɨt əv sənt ˈluːi‖-seɪnt ˈluːɨs/, **The** the aircraft in which Charles Lindbergh made the first flight by one person across the Atlantic Ocean

spir·its /ˈspɪrɨts/ *n* [P] the cheerful or sad state of one's mind: *Their letters of support raised my spirits.* | *He was* **in high/low spirits**. (=cheerful/not cheerful)

spir·i·tu·al[1] /ˈspɪrɨtʃuəl/ *adj* **1** of the spirit rather than the body: *one's spiritual nature* | *The priest is responsible for your spiritual welfare.* **2** religious: *an adviser in spiritual matters* **3** [A] related or close in spirit; connected by qualities or interests of a deep kind: *She's English, but India is her* **spiritual home**. **4** [after *n*] *fml* of the church: *The* **lords spiritual** (=BISHOPS) *sit in Parliament.* —compare TEMPORAL (1) — ~**ly** *adv*

spiritual[2] *n* a religious song of the type sung originally by the black people of the US

spir·i·tual·is·m /ˈspɪrɨtʃʊlɪzəm/ *n* [U] the belief that the dead may send messages to living people usu. through a MEDIUM (=person with special powers) —**-ist** *n* : *a spiritualist seance* —**-istic** /ˌspɪrɨtʃʊˈlɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

spir·i·tu·al·i·ty /ˌspɪrɨtʃuˈælɨti/ *n* [U] the quality of being interested in spiritual or religious matters, worship, prayer, etc.; DEVOTION

spir·i·tu·ous /ˈspɪrɨtʃuəs/ *adj* [A] *fml or tech* being or containing alcohol: *spirituous liquors*

spit[1] /spɪt/ *v* **spat** /spæt/ also **spit** *AmE*; *present participle* **spitting** **1** [I(**at, on**); T (OUT)] to throw out (liquid or other contents) from the mouth with force: *He spat at his opponent contemptuously.* | *I didn't want to eat the pips so I spat them out.* | *He's very ill and spitting blood.* **2** [T (OUT)] to say or express sharply or angrily, as if spitting: *She spat out her reply.* **3** [*it*+I (**with**)] *esp. BrE* to rain very lightly: *We can't go out yet; it's still spitting (with rain).* **4** [I] (esp. of a fire or something cooking) to make small explosions; SPUTTER: *The sausages were spitting in the pan.* **5 spit it out** [*usu. imperative*] *infml* to say openly and without delay what one is thinking or worrying about

spit[2] *n* **1** [U] the liquid in the mouth; SALIVA **2** [*the*+**of**] the exact likeness: *That boy is the spit of his father.* —see also SPITTING IMAGE

spit[3] *n* **1** a thin pointed rod for sticking meat onto and turning, for cooking over a fire: *A huge side of beef was slowly roasting on the spit.* **2** a small usu. sandy point of land running out into a stretch of water

Spit·al·fields /ˈspɪtlfiːldz/ a part of E London, where there was a market for fruit, vegetables, and meat. The old market has been closed and is being moved to another place.

spit and pol·ish /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] *infml* great attention to a clean and shiny appearance, esp. in the army, navy, etc.

spit and saw·dust /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *adj* [A] *BrE infml* (of PUBS) simple, rough, and dirty

spit·ball /ˈspɪtbɔːl/ *n AmE* **1** a small piece of paper which has been shaped into a ball and made wet with SALIVA: *The boys were throwing spitballs when the teacher came back to the classroom.* **2** a BASEBALL which has been made wet with SALIVA so that it moves in an unusual way: *The rules of baseball do not allow a pitcher to throw spitballs.*

spite[1] /spaɪt/ *n* [U] **1** an unpleasant desire to annoy or harm another person, esp. in some small way: *I'm sure he took my parking space just* **out of/from spite**. —see also SPITEFUL **2 in spite of** taking no notice of, or not prevented by; DESPITE: *I went out in spite of the rain.* | *In spite of a slight improvement in sales, the company is still making a loss.*

spite[2] *v* [T] to annoy or harm (someone) intentionally, esp. in some small way: *I'm sure he took my parking space just to spite me.*

spite·ful /ˈspaɪtfəl/ *adj* showing spite or full of spite: *a nasty spiteful little boy* | *It was very spiteful of her to do that.* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

spit·fire /ˈspɪtfaɪəʳ/ *n infml* a person, esp. a woman, with a fierce temper

Spitfire *n* an aircraft flown by the British in the Second World War

spitting im·age /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*+**of**] an exact likeness: *It's incredible; she's the spitting image of her mother!*

Spitting Image a British television programme in which rubber models of well-known people act out recent news or political events in a humorous way

Spitting Image



spit·tle /ˈspɪtl/ *n* [U] SPIT[2] (1)

spit·toon /spɪˈtuːn/ ‖ also **cuspidor** *AmE*— *n* a container set on the floor in a public room, esp. formerly, for spitting (SPIT[1]) into. In Britain and North America, spittoons are rarely found now as it is considered rude to spit.

Spitz /spɪts/, **Mark** (1950–) an American swimmer who won seven gold MEDALS at the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972

spiv /spɪv/ *n BrE infml derog* a man who lives by cheating society, making money in small rather dishonest ways

splash[1] /splæʃ/ *v* **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **a** (of a liquid) to fall, hit, or move noisily, in drops, waves, etc.: *The rain splashed on/against the window.* **b** to cause (a liquid) to do this: *She splashed cologne all over her body.*|*I'm afraid I've splashed a bit of coffee on the carpet.* **2** [T (**with**)] to throw or scatter a liquid against (something): *He splashed his face with cold water to try to wake himself up.* **3** [I] to move noisily in a liquid, making it fly about: *The children were splashing about in the*

bath.| to walk along, splashing through the puddles **4** [T] *infml* to give a lot of space to (a news story); report as if very important: *The paper splashed the story on page one.| Her name was splashed across the front page.* **5** [I;T (OUT, **on**)] *infml, esp. BrE* to spend (a lot of money) on nice but unnecessary things: *I splashed out (£300) on a new television. | She doesn't mind splashing her money about.*

splash down *phr v* [I] (esp. of a spacecraft) to land in the sea —see also SPLASHDOWN

splash[2] *n* **1** a splashing act, movement, or noise: *They dived into the water with a splash.* **2** a mark made by splashing: *There's a splash of paint on the floor. | These flowers bring a* **splash of colour** *into the room.* **3** *infml* a forceful, favourable, and noticeable effect: *His first novel* **made (quite) a splash**. | *a splash of publicity* **4** *esp. BrE* a small added amount of liquid, esp. to a drink: *Just a splash of soda, please.*

splash[3] *adv* [+*prep*] *infml* with a splash: *It fell splash into the lake.*

splash·down /ˈsplæʃdaʊn/ *n* [C;U] (a) landing by a spacecraft in the sea: *Apollo 16 has made a successful splashdown in the Pacific.* —see also SPLASH **down**

splash guard /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* MUDFLAP —see picture at CAR

splash·y /ˈsplæʃi/ *adj esp. AmE* big, bright, and very noticeable; FLASHY

splat[1] /splæt/ *n* [S] *infml* a noise like something wet hitting a surface and being flattened

splat[2] *v* **-tt-** [I;T (**against**)] *infml* to (cause to) make a splat: *The tomatoes splatted against the windscreen.*

splat·ter /ˈsplætəʳ/ *v* [I;T] to SPLASH with small drops of liquid; SPATTER

splatter mov·ie /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a film in which there are many frightening murders or accidents which are very bloody

splay /spleɪ/ *v* [I;T (OUT)] to spread out, esp. in an unnatural and awkward way: *The table suddenly collapsed, its four legs splaying out. | She splayed out her fingers.*

splay·foot·ed /ˈspleɪfʊtɪd/ *adj* having very flat spread-out feet

spleen /spliːn/ *n* **1** [C] a small organ near the upper end of the stomach that controls the quality of the blood supply and produces certain blood cells **2** [U] *lit or fml* violent anger, esp. expressed suddenly: *When I get so frustrated and angry, I have to* **vent my spleen on** (=let my anger out towards) *someone.*

splen·did /ˈsplendɪd/ *adj* **1** grand in appearance or style; causing admiration; IMPRESSIVE: *The walls were hung with splendid silks and tapestries. | Their wedding was a splendid affair.* **2** very fine; excellent: *We had a splendid holiday.* —~**ly** *adv* : *Joe and my father are getting along splendidly.*

splen·dif·e·rous /splenˈdɪfərəs/ *adj BrE infml humor* splendid

splen·dour *BrE* ‖ **-dor** *AmE* /ˈsplendəʳ/ also **splendours** *pl.*— *n* [U] excellent or grand beauty: *We admired the splendour of the mountain scenery. | the faded splendours of the old Majestic Hotel*

sple·net·ic /splɪˈnetɪk/ *adj lit* bad-tempered; habitually angry or unpleasant

splice[1] /splaɪs/ *v* [T] **1** [(**to, onto,** TOGETHER)] to join (two things) together end to end to make one continuous length, e.g. by weaving (ropes), sticking (pieces of film), etc.: *The tape in this cassette is broken; can you splice the ends together?* **2** [*usu. pass.*] *BrE infml* to join in marriage: *It's twelve years now since we* **got spliced**.

splice[2] *n* an act or place of joining end to end

splic·er /ˈsplaɪsəʳ/ *n* an apparatus for joining pieces of film or recording TAPE together neatly

splint /splɪnt/ *n* a flat piece of wood, metal, etc., used for keeping a broken bone in position while it mends

splin·ter[1] /ˈsplɪntəʳ/ *n* [(**of**)] a small sharp-pointed piece, esp. of wood, broken off something: *I got a splinter in my finger while I was sawing the wood. | Some splinters of glass had got into his eye.* —see also picture at PIECE

splinter[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) break into small, sharp-pointed pieces —compare SHATTER **2** [I (OFF)] to separate from a larger organization or become divided into separate parts or groups

splinter group /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a group of people that has separated from a larger body: *After the leader's controversial speech, several splinter groups left the movement in protest.*

split[1] /splɪt/ *v* **split**; *present participle* **splitting** **1** [I;T] to (cause to) divide along a length, esp. with force or by a blow or tear: *This soft wood splits easily. | His coat had split down the back. | I was out in the back yard splitting logs.* **2** [I;T (UP, **into**)] to divide into separate parts: *Rutherford discovered how to split the atom by fission. | The river splits into three smaller streams at this point.| I think the article would be easier to read if you split it up (into sections).* **3** [T (**between**)] to divide among people; share: *Let's split the cost three ways|between the three of us.* **4** [I;T (UP, **into**)] to separate into opposing groups or parties: *Now, children, you must split up into two groups for this game. | This quarrel threatens to split the Republicans (into two opposing groups). | The government is deeply split on this issue. | The committee was* **split right down the middle** *on this proposal.* (=into two opposing groups of exactly equal size) **5** [I (UP, **with**)] to end a friendship, marriage, etc.: *He's split with his girlfriend. | Have you heard that John and Anne have split up?* **6** [I (**on**)] *BrE infml* (esp. among children) to tell secret information about someone: *If I tell you where I'm going, promise you won't split on me?* **7** [I] *old-fash sl* to leave quickly: *I'm getting tired of this place; let's split!* **8 split hairs** to concern oneself with small unimportant differences, esp. in arguments: *"It's not 1000 jobs lost; it's only 967." "It's still far too many — stop splitting hairs!"* —see also HAIR-SPLITTING **9 split one's sides** *infml* to become weak with uncontrollable laughter —see also SIDE-SPLITTING **10 split the difference** *infml* to agree on an amount halfway between: *You say £12 and I say £10, so let's split the difference and call it £11.* —see also SPLITTING

split[2] *n* **1** [(**in**)] a cut or break made by splitting: *Can this split in the tabletop be mended?* **2** [(**in**)] a division or separation, esp. within a usu. undivided group: *Arguments over policy led to a split in the party.* **3** a division and sharing out: *a three-way split* (=between three people) **4** a dish made from fruit, esp. a banana, cut into two pieces with ice cream on top —see also SPLITS

split end /· ˈ·/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] the end of a human hair that has split into several parts, esp. because the hair has not been treated gently enough

split in·fin·i·tive /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *n* a phrase in which an adverb or other word is put between "to" and an INFINITIVE, as in "to easily win". It is better to avoid split infinitives because many people regard them as bad English. —see also **to boldly go where no man has gone before** (BOLDLY)

split-lev·el /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* (of a building or room) having floors at different heights in different parts: *a split-level flat|dining room*

split pea /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* a dried PEA separated into its two natural halves

split per·son·al·i·ty /ˌ· ··ˈ···/ *n not tech* a condition in which a person has two very different ways of behaving — compare SCHIZOPHRENIA

split ring /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **key ring**— *n* a metal ring of two turns pressed flat together, used for holding keys in such a way that they can be slipped on and off

splits /splɪts/ *n* [*the*+S] a movement in which a person's legs are spread wide apart and touch the floor along their whole length: *Can you do the splits?*

split sec·ond /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *n* an extremely short period of time; moment: *I don't know how he escaped — I only took my eyes off him for a split second!* —**split-second** *adj* : *I had to make a split-second decision.*

splits·ville /ˈsplɪtsvɪl/ *adj* [F] *AmE sl* separated from something or someone: *They've been splitsville since we found out about his affair with the waitress.*

split tick·et /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* (in elections in the US) a vote in which the voter has voted for some CANDIDATES of one party and some CANDIDATES of the other party —compare STRAIGHT TICKET

split·ting /ˈsplɪtɪŋ/ *adj* (of a headache) very severe

splodge /splɒdʒ‖splɑːdʒ/ *BrE* ‖ **splotch** /splɒtʃ‖splɑːtʃ/ *esp. AmE*— *n* [(**of**)] *infml* an irregular coloured or dirty mark or spot; BLOTCH: *There were some splodges of paint on the carpet.* —**splodgy** *adj*

splosh /splɒʃ‖splɑːʃ/ *v* [I] *infml* to make or move with a loud

SPLASH: *The little boy was sploshing about in his bath.* —**splosh** *n*

splurge /splɜːdʒ‖splɜːrdʒ/ *v* [I;T (**on**)] *infml* to spend more (money) than one can usually afford: *He splurged all his winnings on an expensive new camera.* —**splurge** *n* : *She went out on a splurge when she got her first wage packet.*

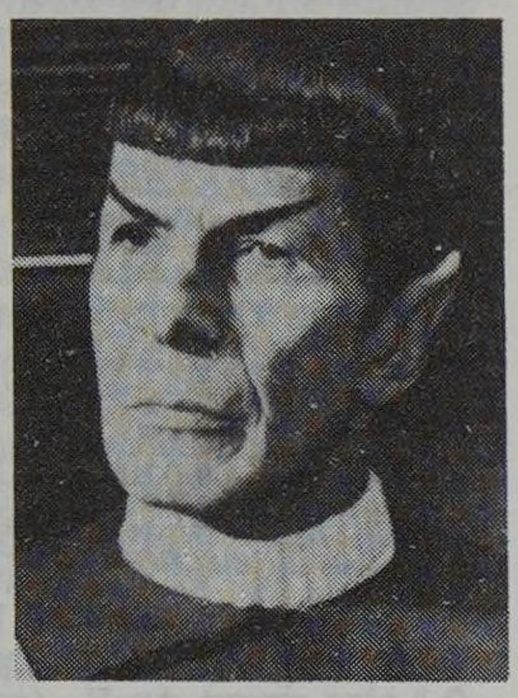
splut·ter[1] /ˈsplʌtəʳ/ *n* a wet spitting (SPIT[1]) noise: *The fire went out with a few splutters as the rain began to fall.*

splutter[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to talk or say quickly and as if confused: *"But ... but ... " she spluttered.* | *He was spluttering with rage.* **2** [I] to make a wet spitting (SPIT[1]) noise: *The candle spluttered and went out.*

Spock[1] /spɒk‖spɑːk/, **Dr Ben·ja·min** /ˈbendʒəm̩n/ (1903–) an American doctor who wrote books giving advice on how parents should look after their children, including the *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*, which suggested that parents should allow their children more freedom than was fashionable at the time. Dr Spock is also remembered in the US for protesting against the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

Spock[2], **Mr** a character from the SCIENCE FICTION television programme *Star Trek*. Mr Spock is a man from the PLANET Vulcan who has large pointed ears and special powers which humans do not have. He is also very LOGICAL and does not have human emotions. He finds it difficult to understand why humans cannot control their feelings.

Mr Spock



Spode /spəʊd/ *n* [U] fine, expensive CHINA or PORCELAIN made at the factory started by Josiah Spode at Stoke-on-Trent in 1764 and still made today

spoil[1] /spɔɪl/ *v* **spoiled** *or* **spoilt** *BrE* /spɔɪlt/ **1** [T] to destroy the value, quality or pleasure of; ruin: *We've had a wonderful day out; let's not spoil it now by having a quarrel.* | *The cook had spoilt the soup by putting too much salt in it.* | *The big orange sign on the front has spoiled the character of the old building.* **2** [I] to lose goodness; decay: *The food will spoil if you don't keep it cool.* **3** [T] to make (esp. a child) selfish by too much generosity or giving too much attention or praise: *His grandmother spoils him.* | *Her husband behaves just like* **a spoilt child**. **4** [T] to treat very or too well; INDULGE: *"I shouldn't have another chocolate ... " "Go on, spoil yourself!"* | *There are so many lovely things I could wear tonight, I'm* **spoilt for choice**. (=it is very difficult to decide) **5** [T] *tech* to fill in (a voting paper) wrongly so that it can no longer be officially counted **6** [I] **be spoiling for a fight** to be very eager to fight or quarrel: *It was obvious from his attitude that he was spoiling for a fight.*

▷ USAGE In Britain, **spoilt** is the usual form of the past participle in meanings **3** and **4**, especially when it is used as an adjective: *a* **spoilt** *child* | *I feel* **spoilt** *by all the kindness you've shown me.* In the US, **spoiled** is used for these meanings.◁

spoil[2] also **spoils** *pl.*— *n* [U] *fml or lit* things taken, esp. by an army from a defeated enemy or by thieves: *The robbers divided up their spoils.* | *the spoils of victory|war*

spoil·age /ˈspɔɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* waste resulting from something being spoiled: *We lost several tons of grain through spoilage.*

spoil·er /ˈspɔɪləʳ/ *n* **1** a person or thing that spoils **2** a surface on an aircraft, car, etc., intended to interrupt the smooth flow of air: *A racing car needs a spoiler to stop it lifting off the road at high speeds.* **3** *AmE* (in sports) a person or a team that spoils another's winning record: *The Bears have won all seven of their games thus far, but the Vikings look to be the spoilers this time around.*

spoil·sport /ˈspɔɪlspɔːt‖-ɔːrt/ *n infml derog* a person who puts an end to other people's fun

spoils sys·tem /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a system in which politicians give public jobs to people who supported them before they were elected. This system was common in the US until the late 1800s.

spoilt /spɔɪlt/ *past tense & participle of* SPOIL[1] —see SPOIL (USAGE)

spoke[1] /spəʊk/ *past tense of* SPEAK

spoke[2] *n* **1** any of the bars which connect the outer ring of a wheel to the centre, e.g. on a bicycle: *a bent spoke* —see picture at BICYCLE **2 put a spoke in someone's wheel** *infml* to prevent someone from going ahead with plans; THWART

spok·en /ˈspəʊkən/ *past participle of* SPEAK

-spoken see WORD FORMATION

spoken for /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* [F] *infml* **1** (of a thing) being kept aside for someone: *I'm afraid that particular model is already spoken for.* **2** (of a person) closely connected with a person of the opposite sex: *You'd better stop flirting with Jim – he's spoken for.* —see also SPEAK **for**

spokes·per·son /ˈspəʊksˌpɜːsən‖-ɜːr-/ also **spokes·man** /-mən/ *masc.*, **spokes·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.*— *n* - **peo·ple** /ˌpiːpəl/ a person chosen to speak officially for a group: *A government spokesperson said today that there would be an official inquiry.* | *a spokesman for the miners' union* —see PERSON (USAGE)

spo·li·a·tion /ˌspəʊliˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* the action of violent or intentional spoiling or destruction: *the spoliation of the environment*

spon·dee /ˈspɒndiː‖ˈspɑːndiː/ *n tech* a measure of poetry consisting of two strong (or long) beats —**-daic** /spɒnˈdeɪ-ɪk‖spɑːn-/ *adj*

sponge[1] /spʌndʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a type of simple sea creature that does not move but grows a spreading rubber-like frame full of small holes **2** [C;U] a piece of a sponge, or of a similar artificial substance made from rubber, which can suck up and hold water and is usu. used for washing: *to squeeze out a sponge* **3** [C] a person who SPONGES[2] (3) on other people **4** [C;U] *BrE* a sponge cake —see also **throw in the sponge** (THROW **in**)

sponge[2] *v* **1** [T (DOWN, OFF, OUT)] to clean by rubbing with a wet cloth or SPONGE[1] (2): *We sponged down the walls to get the worst of the dirt off.* **2** [T (UP)] to remove (liquid) with a cloth, SPONGE[1] (2), etc.: *The nurse sponged (up) the blood from the wound.* **3** [I;T (**off, on, from**)] *derog* to live or get (money, meals, etc.) free by taking advantage of other people's generosity or weakness: *It's ridiculous to accuse people who need state benefits of sponging off the state.*

sponge bag /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a small usu. plastic bag for carrying one's soap, toothbrush, etc.

sponge cake /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] (a) light cake made from eggs, sugar, and flour but usu. no fat

spon·ger /ˈspʌndʒəʳ/ *n derog* a person who SPONGES[2] (3) on other people

spong·y /ˈspʌndʒi/ *adj* like a SPONGE; soft, full of air, and sometimes rather wet; not firm: *a spongy texture* | *spongy bread|ground* —**-iness** *n* [U]

spon·sor[1] /ˈspɒnsəʳ‖ˈspɑːn-/ *n* **1** a person who takes responsibility for a person or thing: *If I'm going to go and live in the US, I must get an American sponsor.* | *the sponsor of a new bill being debated in Parliament* **2** a business which pays for a show, broadcast, sports event, etc., usu. in return for advertising: *The opera house could not survive without commercial sponsors.* **3** a person who agrees to pay someone money, usu. for CHARITY, if they complete (part of) an activity

sponsor[2] *v* [T] to act as a sponsor for: *The baseball match is being sponsored by a cigarette company.* | *a government-sponsored research programme*

sponsored walk /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a walk done to collect money for CHARITY, in which people offer money for each mile that the walkers walk

spon·sor·ship /ˈspɒnsəʃɪp‖ˈspɑːnsər-/ *n* [U] **1** an act of supporting and paying for (part of) an activity: : *The expedition is seeking sponsorship from one of the major banks.* | *government sponsorship* **2** money obtained from SPONSORS (2): *They've had to raise large amounts of sponsorship.*

spon·ta·ne·i·ty /ˌspɒntəˈniːɨti, -ˈneɪɨti‖ˌspɑːn-/ also **spon·ta·ne·ous·ness** /spɒnˈteɪniəsnɨs‖spɑːn-/— *n* [U] *fml* the quality of being spontaneous: *His enthusiasm was somewhat lacking in spontaneity, I thought.*

spon·ta·ne·ous /spɒnˈteɪniəs‖spɑːn-/ *adj* happening as a

result of natural feelings or causes, without outside force or influence, or without being planned: *Her successful jump brought a spontaneous cheer from the crowd.* | *His offer of help was quite spontaneous; he hadn't been told to make it.* | *They think it caught fire because a chemical reaction caused* **spontaneous combustion**. –~**ly** *adv*: *These medical conditions can often cure themselves spontaneously, without medical intervention*

spoof /spu:f/ *n* [**(of, on)**] *infml* a funny untrue copy or description; PARODY: *The show is a spoof of|on university life.* –**spoof** *v* [T] *AmE infml*: *He spoofed the President's habit of falling down.*

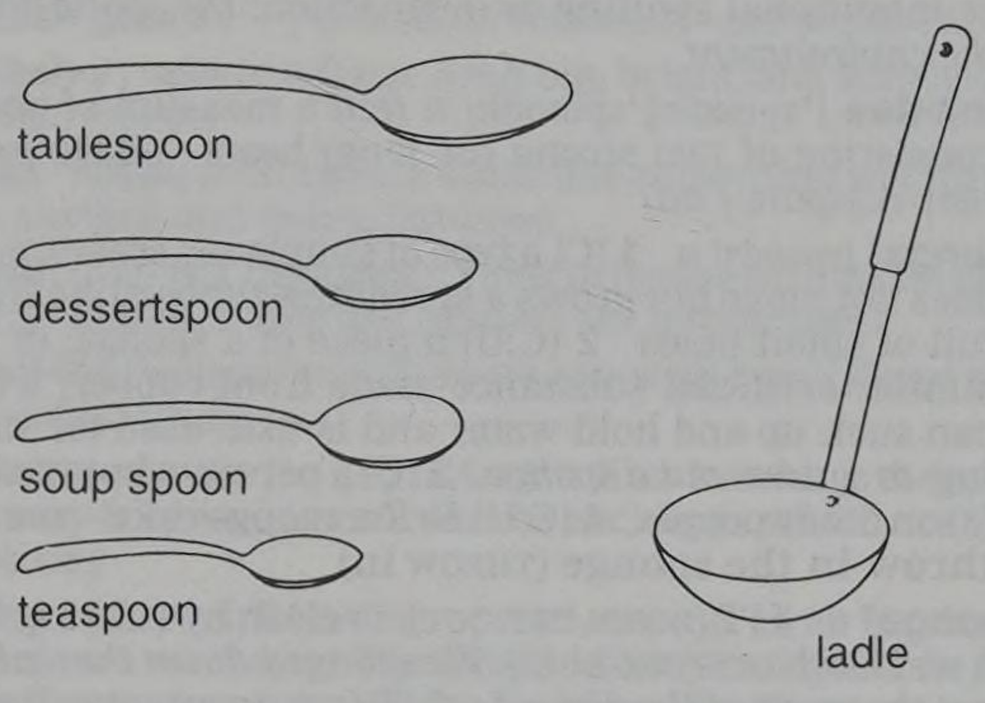
spook[1] /spu:k/ *n infml for* GHOST[1] (1)

spook[2] *v infml, esp. AmE* [T] to cause to be suddenly afraid: *Something spooked the horses and they ran away.*

spook·y /'spu:ki/ *adj infml* causing fear in a strange way; EERIE: *a spooky old house*

spool /spu:l/ *n* **1** a wheel-like object for winding a length of electric wire, recording TAPE, camera film, etc., round **2** *AmE for* REEL[1]: *a spool of thread*

spoons



spoon[1] /spu:n/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a tool for mixing, serving, and eating food, consisting of a small bowl-shaped part with a handle: *a silver|plastic spoon* | *a soup spoon* **2** [**(of)**] a spoonful: *Two spoons of sugar, please.* –see also DESSERTSPOON, GREASY SPOON, SOUP SPOON, TABLESPOON, TEASPOON, WOODEN SPOON, **born with a silver spoon in one's mouth** (SILVER)

spoon[2] *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to pick up or move with a spoon: *Spoon the mixture into glasses.* | *to spoon up soup* **2** [I] *AmE sl* to kiss and hold a person of the opposite sex: *They were spooning on the front porch.*

spoo·ner·is·m /'spu:nərɪzəm/ *n* an expression in which the first sounds of two words have changed places, usu. with a funny result (as in *sew you to a sheet* for *show you to a seat*)

spoon-feed /'· ·/ *v* **-fed** [T] **1** to feed (esp. a baby) with a spoon **2** *usu. derog* to present (information or opinions) to someone in a very easy form that needs no thinking: *It's wrong to spoon-feed your students.* [+*obj*+**to**] *He spoon-fed political theory to his students.* [+*obj*+**with**] *He spoon-fed his students with political theory.*

spoon·ful /'spu:nfʊl/ *n* **spoonfuls** *or* **spoonsful** /'spu:nzfʊl/ [**(of)**] (*often in comb.*) the amount that a spoon will hold: *Two spoonfuls of sugar, please.*

spoor /spɔːʳ, spʊəʳ/ *n* a (single example from a) track of footmarks or waste droppings left by a wild animal

spo·rad·ic /spə'rædɪk/ *adj* happening irregularly; INTERMITTENT: *There were reports of sporadic fighting in the streets.* | *sporadic outbursts of the disease|of violence* –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

spore /spɔːʳ/ *n* a very small seedlike usu. single cell produced by some plants and simple animals and able to develop into a new plant or animal: *a mushroom's spores carried on the wind*

spor·ran /'spɒrən‖'spɔː-, 'spɑː-/ *n* a fur-covered bag worn, esp. in Scottish national dress, in front of a KILT

sport[1] /spɔːt‖spɔːrt/ *n* **1** [C;U] an outdoor or indoor game, competition, or activity needing physical effort and skill and usu. carried on according to rules: *Football is my favourite sport.* | *What other sports do you like?* | *I've never really been keen on sport.* | *Parachuting is an exciting|strenuous|dangerous sport.* | *winter sports* –see RECREATION (USAGE) and see colour picture on page 884 **2** [C] *infml* a person with a generous nature, esp. one who accepts defeat or trouble in a cheerful uncomplaining way: *Be a sport and let me borrow your bike.* | *She's a real sport|a good sport* **3** *AustrE infml* (used as a friendly form of address, esp. when speaking to a man): *Good on you, sport!* **4** *AmE infml* (used as a friendly form of address, esp. when speaking to a boy): *"What do you say, Sport? Want to go to the game?"* **5** [C] *tech* a plant or animal that is different in some important way from its usual type: *This insect's a sport; it has seven legs.* **6** [U] *fml* joking fun: *The remarks were only made* **in sport**. **7** **the sport of kings** *pomp* horse racing –see also SPORTS, BLOOD SPORT

sport[2] *v* **1** [T] to wear or show publicly and sometimes proudly; SHOW **off**: *She came in today sporting a new fur coat.* **2** [I] *usu. lit* to act or move playfully; FROLIC: *Lambs were sporting in the field.*

sport·ing /'spɔːtɪŋ‖'spɔːr-/ *adj* **1** fair-minded and generous, esp. in sports: *It was very sporting of him to admit that his shot was out.* –opposite **unsporting** **2** offering the kind of fair chance to compete that is usual in a game: *She gave me a sporting chance of winning by letting me start first.* **3** [A *no comp.*] **a** of, for, or taking part in sports: *sporting goods* | *All sporting nations wish to take part in the Olympic Games.* **b** of or fond of country sports like hunting or horse racing: *a painter of sporting scenes* –~**ly** *adv*

Sporting Life /ˌ·· '·/ a British daily newspaper which deals mainly with horse racing

spor·tive /'spɔːtɪv‖'spɔːr-/ *adj esp. lit* playful –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

sports[1] /spɔːts‖spɔːrts/ *n* [P] *BrE* a meeting at which people compete in running, jumping, throwing, etc. (ATHLETICS): *The school sports are next week.*

sports[2] *adj* [A *no comp.*] **1** of, for, or connected with sport: *the sports page of the newspaper* | *a sports commentator* **2** ‖ also **sport** *AmE*– (esp. of clothes) informal in style: *Do I have to wear a suit to the dinner, or will a sports jacket be good enough?*

sports car /'· ·/ ‖ also **sport car** *AmE*– *n* a low fast car, usu. having a roof which can be folded back or removed –compare ESTATE CAR, HATCHBACK, SALOON (1)

sports cen·tre /'· ˌ··/ *n* a building where many different types of indoor sports can be played, e.g. football, swimming, and keep fit activities

sports day /'· ·/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a day when the pupils at a school has sports competitions: *It's our sports day next Friday.*

Sports Il·lus·trat·ed /ˌ· '····/ a weekly American magazine read mostly by men, with articles about different sports, teams, professional players, etc.

sports jac·ket /'· ˌ··/ ‖ also **sport coat** /'··/, **sports coat** *AmE*– *n* a man's JACKET, esp. one made of TWEED or a similar material, worn on INFORMAL occasions

sports·man /'spɔːtsmən‖'spɔːr-/ **sports·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.*– *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** someone who plays or enjoys usu. several different sports, esp. outdoor sports: *a fine|talented sportsman* **2** someone who plays sports in a fair and generous spirit

sports·man·like /'spɔːtsmənlaɪk‖'spɔːr-/ *adj* showing sportsmanship

sports·man·ship /'spɔːtsmənʃɪp‖'spɔːr-/ *n* [U] a spirit of honest fair play, esp. in sports

sport shirt /'· ·/ *n* a shirt for men which can be worn outside the trousers

sports schol·ar·ship /'· ˌ···/ *n* money given to a college student to pay for his/her education because it is expected that he/she will be very good at sports, esp. football. Sports scholarships are connected in people's minds with colleges that are better known for their sports teams than their ACADEMIC standards: *He went to Alabama on a sports scholarship.*

sports·wear /'spɔːtsweəʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U] clothes worn esp. when playing sport: *our new range of sportswear*

sport·y /'spɔːti‖'spɔːrti/ *adj infml* **1** *esp. BrE* good at and/or fond of sport: *I'm not very sporty.* **2** (esp. of clothes) good-looking in a bright informal way: *sporty new trousers* –**-iness** *n* [U]

spot[1] /spɒt‖spɑːt/ *n* **1** [C **(of)**] a usu. round part or area that

is different from the main surface, in colour or some other way: *a white dress with blue spots | There was a sticky spot on the floor. | He wiped a spot of black paint off the door handle.* **2** [C] a small round raised diseased mark on the skin: *Did you know you had a spot on your nose? | With measles you get spots all over your skin.* **3** [C] a particular place: *a nice spot for a picnic | This is our favourite holiday spot. | On this map* X *marks the spot where the treasure is buried. | He stood* **rooted to the spot** (=unable to move) *in fear. | War journalists have to travel to the world's* **trouble spots**. | *Can you show me the exact spot where it hurts?* | (fig.) *It's been a terrible week at the office, but there was one* **bright spot**: *the new assistant is very good.* —see also BEAUTY SPOT, BLACK SPOT, BLIND SPOT, HIGH SPOT, HOT SPOT **4** [S] an area of mind or feelings: *I'm afraid you touched a rather tender spot when you mentioned his former wife.* —see also SOFT SPOT **5** [S (**of**)] *BrE infml* a little bit; small amount: *Let's have a spot of lunch | I'm afraid there's been* **a spot of bother**. (=a bit of trouble) **6** [C] *infml* a difficult position or situation; FIX[2] (1): *Now we're really in a spot!* **7** [C] a place in a broadcast; SLOT: *He got a guest spot on a well-known variety show.* **8** [C] *infml* a position in an organization, system of ranks, etc.: *She finished in the top spot|the number-one spot in the world tennis rankings.* **9** [C] *infml for* SPOTLIGHT[1] (1) **10** [S] *AmE infml* a piece of paper money (BILL[1](3)) of the amount stated: *a ten-spot* (=a ten-dollar bill) **11 hit the spot** *AmE infml* to satisfy one's hunger, esp. with something that tastes good: *That pie really hit the spot, Mildred.* **12 on the spot: a** at once: *Anyone breaking the rules will be asked to leave on the spot.* **b** at the place of the action: *When the fighting started police and reporters were soon on the spot.* **c** without moving away from where one is: *The gym teacher made us do running on the spot.* **d** in a position of having to make the right answer or decision: *His direct question* **put me on the spot**; *I couldn't make an excuse or lie.* **13 Out, damned spot!** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, said by Lady Macbeth when trying to remove spots of blood from her hands after she has killed Duncan

spot[2] *v* **-tt-** **1** [T] to pick out with the eye; see or recognize, esp. with effort or difficulty: *He's a very tall man, easy to spot in a crowd. | She spotted a bad mistake in the accounts. | They were spotted by the police as they were entering the bank.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *He was spotted leaving the building soon afterwards.* **2** [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] to mark with (coloured) spots: *I chose a white cloth spotted with green. | a spotted dog* **3** [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] to place or scatter one by one on a surface, in an area, etc.: *The yellow fields were spotted with red poppies.* **4** [*it*+I] *BrE* (of rain) to fall lightly and irregularly: *It's spotting (with rain) again.* **5** [T+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *AmE infml* to allow as an advantage in a game: *He spotted his opponent three points and still won.* **6** [T] to help by preventing a fall in a sport, e.g. GYMNASTICS: *The coach spotted her on the dismount.*

spot[3] *adj* [A] *tech* for buying or paying at once, not at some future time: *They won't give credit; they want* **spot cash**.| *What's the spot price for oil? | spot wheat*

spot[4] *adv* [+*prep*] *BrE infml* exactly: *She arrived spot on time.* —see also SPOT-ON

spot check /ˌ· ˈ·‖ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [(**on, for**)] an examination of some members of a group that are chosen, usu. by chance, as being typical of the whole group: *The police didn't search everyone for drugs; they just made spot checks.* —**spot-check** *v* [T (**for**)]

spot·less /ˈspɒtləs‖ˈspɑːt-/ *adj* completely clean: *a spotless white shirt* | (fig.) *a spotless reputation* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

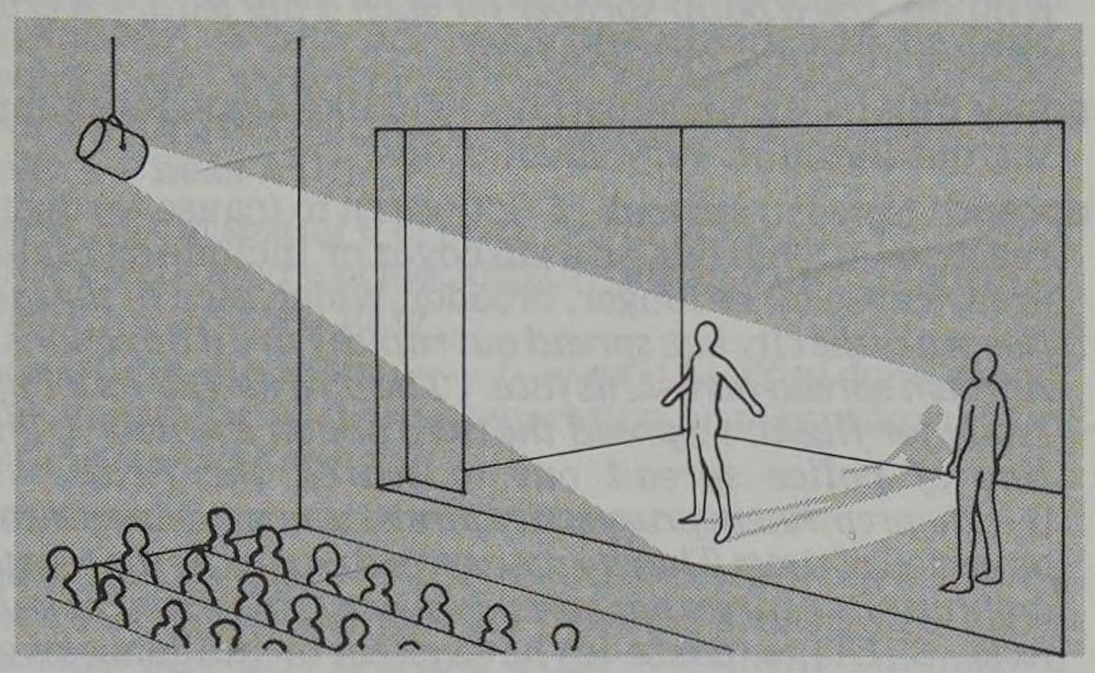
spot·light[1] /ˈspɒtlaɪt‖ˈspɑːt-/ *n* **1** [C] (a bright round area of light made by) a lamp with a narrow beam which can be directed at a particular object: *The spotlight followed her round the stage.* —see picture at LIGHT **2** [*the*] public attention: *Throughout his political career he's always been* **in the spotlight**.

spotlight[2] *v* [T] **-lighted** *or* **-lit** /lɪt/ to direct attention to: *The article spotlights the difficulties of the unemployed.*

spot-on /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj, adv BrE infml* exactly right: *Your judgment|guess turned out to be spot-on.* —see also SPOT[4]

spotted dick /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] a heavy sweet boiled British PUDDING with CURRANTS in it. It is thought of as typical old-fashioned British food.

spotlight



spot·ter[1] /ˈspɒtəʳ‖ˈspɑː-/ *n esp. BrE* a person who looks for or watches the stated thing: *a bird spotter | a keen train spotter*

spotter[2] *adj* [A] used for keeping watch on an enemy's actions: *a spotter plane*

spot·ty /ˈspɒti‖ˈspɑːti/ *adj usu. derog* **1** *BrE infml* having spots on the face: *spotty youths* **2** *AmE* with some parts different from others, esp. in quality; PATCHY: *a rather spotty performance*

Spotty Dog /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a character in *The Woodentops*, a British television programme for children in the 1960s. It was a small wooden dog which walked with its legs stiff and not bending.

spouse /spaʊs, spaʊz/ *n usu. fml or law* a husband or wife

spout[1] /spaʊt/ *v* **1** [I;T (OUT)] to come out or throw out in a forceful stream; GUSH: *Water was spouting out from the pipe. | The well spouted oil.* **2** [T] *infml derog* to pour out in a stream of words: *He's always spouting poetry at people. | to spout platitudes* **3** [I] (of a WHALE) to throw out a tall stream of water from a hole in the head —~**er** *n*

spout[2] *n* **1** an opening from which liquid comes out, such as a tube, pipe, or small U- or V-shaped lip for pouring liquid from a container: *the spout of a teapot* **2** a forceful esp. rising stream of liquid —see also WATERSPOUT **3** **up the spout** *BrE infml* **a** in a hopeless state or position **b** PREGNANT (1)

sprain[1] /spreɪn/ *v* [T] to damage (a joint in the body) by sudden twisting: *I've sprained my ankle. | a sprained wrist*

sprain[2] *n* an act or result of spraining a joint: *That's a bad|nasty sprain.* —compare STRAIN[2] (4)

sprang /spræŋ/ *past tense of* SPRING[1]

sprat /spræt/ *n* a small European HERRING

Sprat, Jack see JACK SPRAT

spraun·cy /ˈsprɔːnsi/ *adj BrE infml* **1** lively **2** stylish

sprawl[1] /sprɔːl/ *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*; T+*obj*+*adv|prep*; *usu. pass.*] to stretch one's body out wide or awkwardly in lying or sitting: *He found her sprawled out in a comfortable chair asleep.* **2** [I+*adv|prep*] to spread out ungracefully over a wide area: *The city sprawls for miles in each direction. | a sprawling refugee camp*

sprawl[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a sprawling position of the body **2** an irregular ungraceful spreading mass: *This area is a classic example of* **urban sprawl**. (=of city buildings spreading in an unplanned and unattractive way)

spray[1] /spreɪ/ *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*] (of liquid) to be scattered or forced out in very small drops under pressure: *There was a hole in the hose, and water sprayed out all over me.* **2** [T] to throw or force out (liquid) in very small drops on (a surface, person, field of crops, etc.): *We spray the crops to prevent disease.* [+*obj*+**on, over**] *He sprayed paint on|over the wall.* [+*obj*+**with**] *He sprayed the wall with paint.* | (fig.) *The gangsters sprayed the car with machine-gun bullets.*

spray[2] *n* **1** [U] water in very small drops blown from the sea, a waterfall, a wet road surface, etc.: *We parked the car by the sea and it got covered with spray.* **2** [C;U] (a can or other container holding) liquid to be sprayed out under pressure: *a quick-drying spray paint | Did you bring along some insect spray?* (=to kill insects) | *a can of hair spray* (=to keep hair in place)

spray[3] *n* (an arrangement of flowers, jewels, etc., in the shape of) a small branch with its leaves and flowers

spray·er /ˈspreɪəʳ/ *n* a person or apparatus that sprays out a liquid: *Use a paint sprayer for such a big wall.* | *A crop sprayer flew low over the field.*

spray gun /ˈ· ·/ *n* an apparatus held like a gun for pumping out liquid in very small drops

spread[1] /spred/ *v* **spread** **1** [I;T (OUT)] to (cause to) open, reach, or stretch out, so as to cover or include a greater area; (cause to) be longer, broader, wider, etc.: *In the last five years the city has spread out rapidly in all directions.* | *A frown spread across his face.* | *The bird spread its wings ready for flight.* | *Spread the map out on the floor.* | *The line of police spread out to search the fields.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*; *not in progressive forms*] to cover a large area or period of time: *The city now spreads as far as the coast.* | *a university course that spreads over a wide range of subjects* **3** [I;T] to (cause to) have effect or influence over a wider area: *The fire soon spread to the adjoining buildings.* | *Infectious diseases are very easily spread.* | *The threat of a shutdown spread alarm and despondency among the workforce.* **4** [I;T (AROUND)] to make or become (more) widely known: *The news of the gold discovery* **spread like wildfire**. (=spread extremely rapidly) | *Who's been spreading malicious rumours about me?* **5** **a** [T] to put (a covering) on (a surface): [+*obj*+**on**] *Spread butter on the bread.* [+*obj*+**with**] *Spread the bread with butter.* **b** [I+*adv*] to be able to be used for covering a surface: *Butter doesn't spread well when it's cold.* **6** [T (**over, among**)] to scatter, share, or divide over an area, period of time, etc.; DISTRIBUTE: *We plan to spread the cost over three years.* | *They invested in several different companies in order to spread the risks.* **7** [T] *old-fash* to prepare (a table or meal) before eating: *The table was spread for tea.* **8 spread one's wings** to begin to take part in new activities or start a new life – ~**able** *adj*

▷USAGE Note the patterns in these sentences: *She* **spreads** *her toast with butter.* | *She* **spreads** *butter on/over her toast.* Several other verbs (**sprinkle, strew,** etc.) can have the same patterns. Any verb in this dictionary which is followed by the note "see SPREAD (USAGE)" has these patterns.◁

spread[2] *n* **1** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the act or action of spreading: *The rapid spread of the disease is alarming the medical authorities.* | *efforts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] a range or area over which something spreads: *This tree has a spread of 100 feet.* | *The various dealers' prices show a wide spread.* (=there is a large difference between the highest and lowest) – compare SPAN[2] **3** [C] a newspaper or magazine article or advertisement usu. covering one or more pages and with pictures: *The paper is running a double-page spread featuring photos of the wedding.* **4** [U] a soft food for spreading on bread: *a tube of cheese spread* **5** [C] *infml* a large or grand meal: *magnificent spread* **6** [C] *esp. AmE* a large farm or esp. RANCH: *He has a 1000-acre spread in Texas.* –see also BEDSPREAD, MIDDLE-AGED SPREAD

spread-ea·gle /ˌ· ˈ··‖ˈ· ˌ··/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to put (someone, esp. oneself) into a position with arms and legs spread out: *He lay spread-eagled on the bed.*

spread·sheet /ˈspredʃiːt/ *n* a type of computer PROGRAM that allows figures (e.g. about sales, taxes, and profits) to be shown in groups on a SCREEN[1] (4) so that quick calculations can be made

spree /spriː/ *n* a period of wild irresponsible fun, spending, drinking, etc.: *When I got my prize money we all went out on a spree.* | *a shopping/spending spree*

sprig /sprɪg/ *n* [(**of**)] a small end of a stem or branch with leaves: *He decorated the chicken with sprigs of parsley.* | *a sprig of mistletoe/holly*

spright·ly /ˈspraɪtli/ *adj* cheerful and active; LIVELY: *a sprightly dance/old man* –**liness** *n* [U]

spring[1] /sprɪŋ/ *v* **sprang** /spræŋ/ also **sprung** /sprʌŋ/ *AmE*, **sprung** **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to move quickly and suddenly upwards or forwards as if by jumping: *He sprang to his feet/sprang to the door/sprang over the wall.* | *The soldiers sprang to attention.* | (fig.) *She sprang to the president's defence when his policies were criticized.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to appear or come into being or action quickly or from nothing: *A wind suddenly sprang up.* | *Towns had sprung up in what had been a dry desert.* | *I turned the key and the engine sprang into life.* | *Tears sprang to her eyes.* | (*infml*) *Where did you spring from? I thought you were in America.* **3** [L+*adj*;T] to open or close quickly (as if) by the force of a spring: *The box sprang open when I touched the button.* | *to spring a trap* **4** [T (**on**)] to make happen or make known suddenly and unexpectedly: *We sprang a surprise party on them.* | *He sprang the news of his marriage on his parents.* **5** [T] *infml* to arrange for (someone) to escape from prison **6 spring a leak** (of a ship, container, etc.) to begin to let liquid through a crack, hole, etc.

spring from sthg. *phr v* [T] to be a product or result of; have as its origin: *His fear of dogs springs from a bad experience as a child.*

spring[2] *n* **1** [C;U] the season between winter and summer; the part of the year when leaves and flowers appear: *I go on holiday in (the) spring.* | *a wet spring* | *last spring* | *spring flowers* –see colour picture on page 1211 **2** [C] also **springs** *pl.*– a place where water comes up naturally from the ground: *a bubbling spring* | *hot springs* – compare SOURCE (3) **3** [C] an object, usu. a length of metal wound round, which can be forced together or pressed down, and will return to its original shape when let go: *the springs of a mattress* | *a watch spring* | *What an uncomfortable chair! It needs new springs.* **4** [U] the quality of this object: *There's not much spring in this old bed.* **5** [S;U] an active healthy quality: *There was a letter from him at last, and she walked to work that morning with* **a spring in her step**. **6** [C] an act of springing: *The cat made a sudden spring at the mouse.*

Spring Bank Hol·i·day /ˌ· · ˈ···/ also **Spring Holiday** /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [C;U] the last MONDAY in MAY which is a public holiday in England, Wales, and N Ireland

spring·board /ˈsprɪŋbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* **1** a strong bendable board for jumping off to give height to a DIVE or jump – compare DIVING BOARD **2** [(**to, for**)] a starting point where power is built up for future action: *They are hoping that their successes in the local elections will be a springboard to victory in next year's national election.*

spring·bok /ˈsprɪŋbɒk‖-bɑːk/ *n* **-boks** *or* **-bok** **1** a fast-running graceful South African GAZELLE (=small deer) **2** a SPORTSMAN or SPORTSWOMAN playing for South Africa, esp. at RUGBY or cricket, in an international match or tour abroad

spring break /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* a usu. two-week long springtime holiday from college or university. Some students travel to sunny places such as Florida for their spring break and enjoy themselves by having a lot of alcohol.

spring chick·en /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** *esp. AmE* a young chicken suitable for cooking **2** [*usu. in negatives*] *infml* a young person: *She's no spring chicken.* (= she's old)

spring-clean[1] /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *v* [I;T] *esp. BrE* to clean (a place) thoroughly, as people often clean houses in the spring

spring-clean[2] /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **spring-clean·ing** /ˈ· ˌ··/ *AmE*– *n* [S] a thorough cleaning, esp. of a house

spring fe·ver /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* a feeling of wanting to do something new, different, and exciting: *He's got spring fever and is finding it hard to study.*

spring on·ion /ˌ· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **scallion, green onion** *AmE*– *n* an onion with a small white round part (BULB) and long green stem, usu. eaten raw

spring roll /ˌ· ˈ·‖ˈ· ·/ also **pancake roll** *BrE* ‖ **egg roll** *AmE*– *n* a Chinese food consisting of a thin case of egg pastry filled with bits of vegetable and often meat and usu. cooked in oil

Spring·steen /ˈsprɪŋstiːn/, **Bruce** /bruːs/ (1949–) an American popular music singer and songwriter who first became successful in the 1970s, known esp. for his live performances in concert

spring tide /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a large rise and fall of the sea at the times of the new and full moon –compare NEAP TIDE

spring·time /ˈsprɪŋtaɪm/ *n* [(*the*) U] the season of spring; time of spring weather

spring train·ing /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* the period during which a BASEBALL team gets ready for competition

spring·y /ˈsprɪŋi/ *adj* having SPRING[2] (4); able to come back to its original shape; RESILIENT: *a light springy sword* | *springy turf*

sprin·kle[1] /ˈsprɪŋkəl/ *v* **1** [T] to scatter (small drops of liquid or small bits of solid matter) on or over (a surface or area): [+*obj*+*prep*] *He sprinkled vinegar on his fish and chips.* | *She sprinkled sand along the icy path.* [+*obj*+**with**] *She sprinkled the path with sand.* | (fig.) *His*

sermon was liberally sprinkled with quotations from the Bible. —compare SCATTER[1]; see SPREAD (USAGE) **2** [*it*+I] to rain lightly

sprinkle[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a light rain **2** a sprinkling

sprin·kler /ˈsprɪŋklə^{r}/ *n* **1** an apparatus for sprinkling water: *a garden sprinkler* —see picture at GARDEN **2** a system of fire protection inside a building with pipes for sprinkling water which are turned on by high heat

sprin·kling /ˈsprɪŋklɪŋ/ *n* [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] a small scattered group or amount: *We've only had a sprinkling of snow.* | *There was a sprinkling of new faces at the meeting.*

sprint[1] /sprɪnt/ *v* [I] to run at one's fastest speed, esp. for a short distance: *The runners sprinted down the finishing straight.* —see RUN (USAGE) —**~er** *n*

sprint[2] *n* **1** [S] an act of sprinting: *He put on/made a sprint to catch the bus.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] a short race for runners: *the 100-yard sprint*

Sprint·er /ˈsprɪntə^{r} / *n* the name of a fast train on British local railways

sprite /spraɪt/ *n* **1** a fairy, esp. a playful graceful one: *a water sprite* **2** an image produced on a SCREEN[1] (4) by a computer, of a special type that can be drawn in LAYERS to give a real life effect to a picture

Sprite *n tdmk* a sweet FIZZY non-alcoholic drink that has no colour and tastes of LEMON and LIME

sprit·zer /ˈsprɪtsə^{r}/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) a drink made with a little SODA WATER: *A white wine spritzer, please.*

sprock·et /ˈsprɒkɨt‖ˈsprɑ:-/ *n* **1** also **sprocket wheel** /ˈ·· ·/— a wheel with a row of teeth for fitting into and turning a bicycle chain, a photographic film with holes, etc. **2** a single one of these teeth

sprog /sprɒg‖sprɑ:g/ *n BrE sl* a child

sprout[1] /spraʊt/ *v* **1** [I;T (**from,** UP)] to (cause to) grow, appear, or develop: *Leaves are beginning to sprout from the trees.* | *You've sprouted a beard since I last saw you!* | *a forest of chimneys sprouting from the rooftops* **2** [I] to send out new growths: *These old potatoes have begun to sprout.*

sprout[2] *n* **1** a new growth on a plant; SHOOT[2] (1) **2** *BrE* a BRUSSELS SPROUT —see picture at VEGETABLE **3** *AmE* an ALFALFA sprout —see also BEANSPROUT

spruce[1] /spru:s/ *n* [C;U] (the wood of) a tree that grows in northern countries and has short needle-shaped leaves that remain in winter

spruce[2] *adj* neat and clean in appearance; SMART: *looking very spruce in his new suit* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

spruce[3] *v*

spruce (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **up** *phr v* [I;T] *infml* to make (esp. oneself) spruce: *I must go and spruce (myself) up/get spruced up before dinner.*

sprung[1] /sprʌŋ/ *past participle & (AmE) past tense of* SPRING

sprung[2] *adj* supported or kept in shape by springs: *a sprung mattress*

spry /spraɪ/ *adj* (esp. of older people) active and quick in movement: *He's 75 and still spry as a kitten.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

spud /spʌd/ *n infml* a potato

spume /spju:m/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* a light, white air-filled mass on the top of a liquid, esp. on the sea; FOAM

spun /spʌn/ *past tense & participle of* SPIN

spunk /spʌŋk/ *n* [U] **1** *infml* courage; spirit **2** *BrE taboo for* SEMEN —**~y** *adj*

spur[1] /spɜ:^{r}/ *n* **1** a U-shaped object with a point or toothed wheel that is worn round the heel of a rider's boot and used to direct a horse or urge it to go faster: *He dug in his spurs.* **2** [(**to**)] an event or influence that encourages action; INCENTIVE: *We hope these criticisms will act as a spur to increased effort.* **3** a length of high ground coming out from a range of higher mountains **4** a railway track or road that goes away from a main line or road **5** a stiff sharp growth on the back of some birds' legs **6 on the spur of the moment** without preparation or planning —see also SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT

spur[2] *v* **-rr-** [T (ON)] **1** to use spurs to make (a horse) go faster **2** to urge or encourage forcefully to work harder, perform better, etc.: *She spurred her team on to greater efforts.*

spu·ri·ous /ˈspjʊəriəs/ *adj fml* **1** based on wrong or incorrect reasoning: *spurious arguments/logic* —compare SPECIOUS **2** false or pretended; not GENUINE: *spurious sympathy* **3** *tech* not really the product of the time, writer, etc., shown or claimed: *There are some spurious lines in this ancient poem, which were added later.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

spurn /spɜ:n‖spɜ:rn/ *v* [T] *esp. fml or lit* to refuse or send away with angry pride; REJECT: *She spurned all offers of help.* | *a spurned lover*

spur-of-the-mo·ment /ˌ· · · ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] *infml* done, made, or happening without preparation or planning: *a spur-of-the-moment decision*

Spurs /spɜ:z‖spɜ:rz/ see TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

spurt[1] /spɜ:t‖spɜ:rt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) flow out suddenly or violently: *Water spurted from the broken pipe.* | *The broken pipe was spurting water.* **2** [I (**for**)] to make a short sudden effort or increase of activity or speed: *The runner spurted for the line.*

spurt[2] *n* **1** a short sudden increase of activity, effort, or speed: *He does his work in erratic spurts.* | *She put on a sudden spurt and overtook all the other runners.* **2** [(**of**)] a sudden usu. short pouring out of liquid or gas: *The boiler gave off a spurt of steam.*

Sput·nik /ˈspʊtnɪk/ *n* any of a number of SATELLITES put into space by the Soviet Union, esp. **Sputnik I** which was the first man-made satellite to go around the Earth

sput·ter /ˈspʌtə^{r}/ *v* **1** [I] to make repeated soft explosive sounds: *The car's engine started, sputtered for a moment, and died again.* **2** [I;T] to speak or say in confusion —**sputter** *n* : *the sputter of hot fat in the pan*

spu·tum /ˈspju:təm/ *n* [U] *med* liquid from the mouth, esp. as coughed up from the lungs in some diseases

spy



spy[1] /spaɪ/ *n* a person employed to find out secret information, esp. from an enemy or a competitor in business: *The security police have uncovered/exposed/captured a foreign spy.*

►CULTURAL NOTE The popular image of a spy is of a brave, attractive man like James Bond or a mysterious man or woman in dark GLASSES. —compare DOUBLE AGENT, MOLE[1] (2)◄

spy[2] *v* **1** [I (**on, upon**)] to work as a spy, trying to find out secret information: *He was expelled from the country for spying on their naval bases.* | *She has been charged with spying for an enemy power.* —compare DOUBLE AGENT **2** [I (**into, on**)] to watch or search secretly: *From behind her curtain she could spy on her neighbours.* | *It's wrong to spy into other people's affairs.* | *We think we can do business with them, but we've sent a representative to* **spy out the land** (=collect some more information about them) *before we decide.* **3** [T] *esp. lit* to catch sight of; discover after some looking: *She suddenly spied her friend in the crowd.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *I spied him hiding behind the door.*

Spy·catch·er /ˈspaɪkætʃə^{r}/ a book written by a former British spy, Peter Wright, which shocked the public in 1987 because it revealed (REVEAL) secrets about the government and about government spies. Many members of the government, especially the PRIME MINISTER, Mrs Thatcher, opposed the book and as a result it was banned (BAN) in Britain.

spy·glass /ˈspaɪglɑ:s‖-glæs/ *n* a small TELESCOPE, used esp. in former times

Spy Who Came in from the Cold /ˌ· · · ˌ· · · ˈ·/, **The** a book by John Le Carré written in 1963, about a British spy in East Germany who wanted to go back to the West

sq *written abbrev. for:* square: *6 sq metres*

squab /skwɒb‖skwɑːb/ *n* a young PIGEON (=kind of bird), esp. as food

squab·ble /ˈskwɒbəl‖ˈskwɑː-/ *v* [I (**about, over**)] to take part in a continuing quarrel, esp. over something unimportant: *What are you children squabbling about now?* —**squabble** *n*

squad /skwɒd‖skwɑːd/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a group of people, usu. highly trained, working as a team: *a bomb squad | a fire-fighting squad | The final England football team will be chosen from their squad of 14.* **2** a small group of soldiers, often together for a particular duty: *a drill squad* —see also DEATH SQUAD, FIRING SQUAD, FLYING SQUAD

squad car /ˈ· ·/ *n esp. AmE* a car used by police on duty; PATROL CAR

squad·dy /ˈskwɒdi‖ˈskwɑː-/ *n esp. BrE infml* a soldier, esp. one who is not an officer

squad·ron /ˈskwɒdrən‖ˈskwɑː-/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a military or naval unit, esp. a middle-sized airforce unit with between 10 and 18 aircraft: *a squadron of bombers/warships*

squadron lead·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an officer in the British airforce below a WING COMMANDER —see TABLE 3

squal·id /ˈskwɒlɨd‖ˈskwɑː-/ *adj* **1** very dirty and unpleasant, esp. as a result of lack of care or lack of money: *How can they live in such squalid conditions? | squalid slums* **2** having or concerning low moral standards; SORDID: *a squalid story of sex and violence* —~**ly** *adv*

squall[1] /skwɔːl/ *n* a sudden strong wind often bringing rain or snow: (fig.) *domestic squalls* (=short but noisy arguments) —~**y** *adj* : *squally showers*

squall[2] *v* [I] to cry (out) noisily: *Can't you stop that baby squalling?* —**squall** *n*

squal·or /ˈskwɒlərˈ‖ˈskwɑː-/ *n* [U] the condition of being SQUALID (1): *ten people living in squalor in a single room*

squan·der /ˈskwɒndərˈ‖ˈskwɑːn-/ *v* [T (**on**)] to spend foolishly; use up wastefully: *The council has been squandering the ratepayers' money. | to squander a valuable opportunity* —~**er** *n*

Squan·to /ˈskwɒntəʊ ‖ ˈskwɑːn-/ (1585?–1622) a Native American who helped the Pilgrims survive their first years in North America by showing them where to hunt and fish and how to plant corn

square[1] /skweəʳ/ *n* **1** a shape with four straight equal sides forming four right angles —compare OBLONG, RECTANGLE; see picture at QUADRILATERAL **2** a piece of material in this shape: *a square of cloth* —see picture at PIECE **3** (the buildings surrounding) a broad open area in a town, usu. in the form of a square: *The market is held in the town square. | The American embassy in London is in Grosvenor Square.* **4** [(**of**)] the number obtained when another number is multiplied by itself: *16 is the square of 4.* —see also SQUARE[3] (3), SQUARE ROOT **5** a space on a game board: *He moved his queen two squares forward.* **6** *old-fash sl* a person who does not know or follow the latest ideas, styles, etc. **7** a straight-edged often L-shaped tool for drawing and measuring right angles —see also SETSQUARE, T-SQUARE **8 on the square** *old-fash infml* honestly; fairly

square[2] *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] having four equal sides and four right angles; being a square: *A handkerchief is usually square. | a square tower/box* **2** forming a right angle: *a square corner | square shoulders* **3** [A *no comp.*] being a measurement of area equal to that of a square with sides of the stated length: *10,000 square centimetres equals 1 square metre. | The forest covers an area of 1500 square miles.* **4** [after *n*; *no comp.*] being the stated length from a corner in both directions: *The room is six metres square.* **5** [F (**with**)] level: *That shelf isn't quite square (with the other one); can you straighten it?* **6** fair and honest: *a square deal* —see also **fair and square** (FAIR[2]) **7** [F] equal in points: *The teams are* **all square** *at one goal each.* **8** [F] having no debts to one another that are still to be settled: *I've paid what I owe them so we are* **all square** *now.* **9** *old-fash sl* of or like a SQUARE[1] (6); old-fashioned **10** (in cricket) in a position at (about) right angles to the hitter **11 a square peg in a round hole** *infml* someone who is not suited to the job they hold, the group they belong to, etc.; MISFIT —see also SQUARELY —~**ness** *n* [U]

square[3] *v* **1** [T (OFF, UP)] to put into a shape with straight lines and right angles: *He squared off the end of the piece of wood. | "I won't be threatened," she said, squaring her shoulders defiantly.* **2** [T (OFF)] to divide into squares or mark with squares: *squared paper* **3** [T *usu. pass.*] to multiply (a number) by itself once: *2 squared equals 4.* (written $2^2=4$) —see also SQUARE[1] (4), SQUARE ROOT **4** [I;T (**with**)] to (cause to) match known or accepted facts, standards, aims, etc.; be in agreement or bring into agreement: *His statement doesn't square with* (=fit) *the facts. | They've tried to persuade me to do it, but I can't square it with my conscience. | I haven't got time to ask the boss if it's all right — would you square it with her for me?* **5** [T] to cause (totals of points or games won) to be equal: *Britain won the second match to square the series at one each.* **6** [T] *infml* to pay or pay for; settle: *I've squared my account at the store.* **7** [T] *infml* to pay or settle dishonestly, esp. by a BRIBE: *There are government officials who will have to be squared if we're to get this scheme approved.* **8 square the circle** to attempt something impossible

square (sthg.) away *phr v* [T; *usu. pass.*] *AmE infml* **1** to finish, esp. the last details: *I have to get this report squared away before I leave tonight.* **2** to tidy (a place): *As soon as the station wagon is squared away* (=things are put in the right places in the car), *we can go.*

square up *phr v* [I] **1** *infml* to pay what is owed; settle a bill: *Let's square up; how much do I owe you?* **2** [(**to**)] also **square off**— to stand as if ready to begin fighting

square up to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to face (an opponent or a difficult situation) with determination: *I admire the way she squared up to the problem.*

square-bash·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* practice, esp. in marching, by soldiers

square brack·et /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *esp. BrE* a BRACKET[1] (2a)

square dance /ˈ· ·/ *n* a type of country dance in which four pairs of dancers face each other to form a square

► CULTURAL NOTE In the US, square dancing is often associated with the West of the country, but it is done all over the US and many children learn square dances in school. There is usually a **caller** who tells the dancers which steps to do, and he often talks very fast and uses special names for the steps. ◄

square knot /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* REEF KNOT

square leg /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* (in cricket) a fielding (FIELD[2] (1)) position

square·ly /ˈskweəli‖ˈskweər-/ also **square**— *adv* **1** in a fair and honest way **2** [+*prep*] directly: *He looked her squarely in the eye. | The report puts the blame for the accident squarely on the driver of the train.*

square meal /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n infml* a good satisfying and healthy meal: *You need to eat three square meals a day.*

Square Mile /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the part of London, to the E of the centre, where most of the important banks and financial and business institutions, such as the Stock Exchange, are found

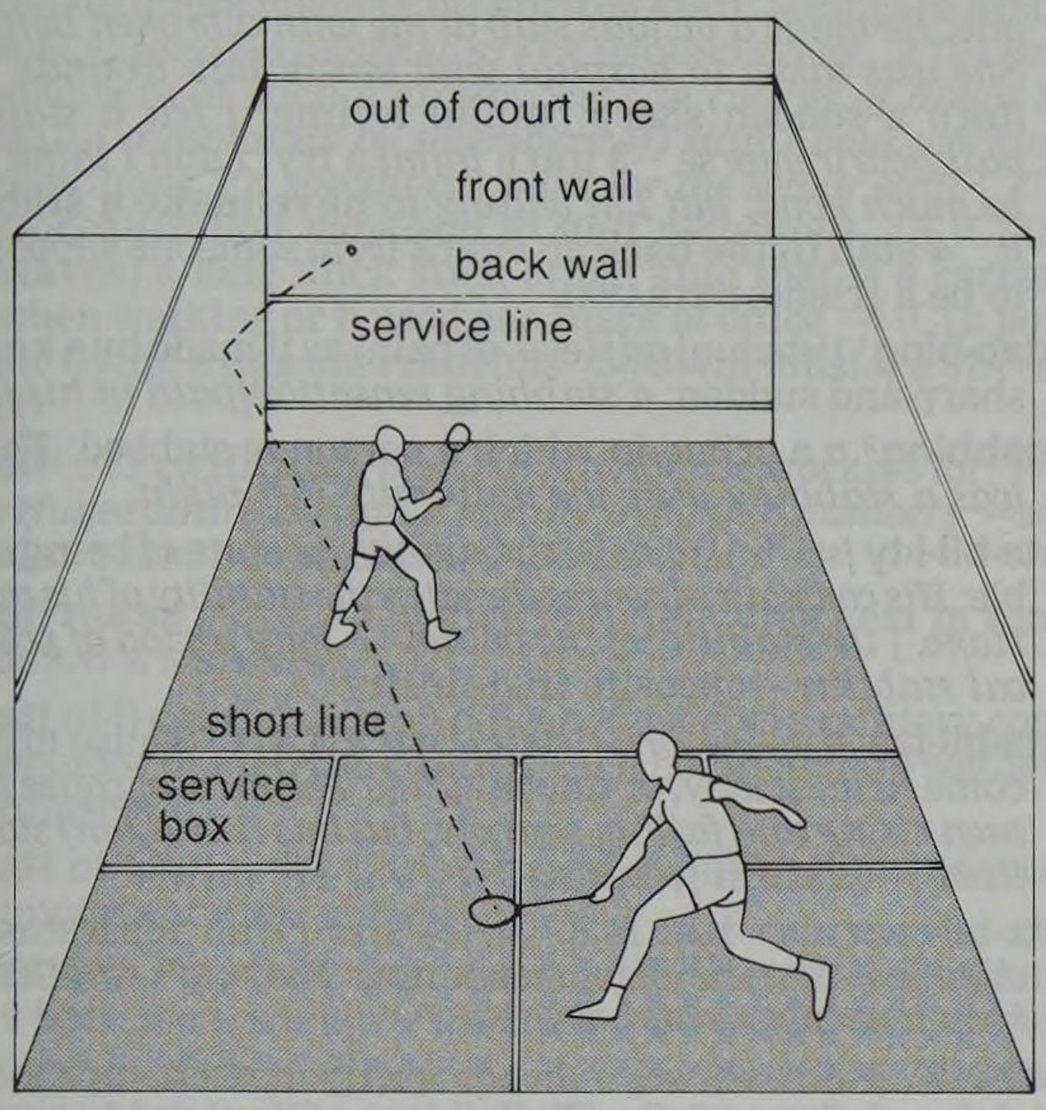
square one /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the starting point: *The committee rejected all our plans, so now we're* **back to square one.**

square-rigged /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a ship) having sails set across rather than along the length of the ship —compare FORE AND AFT

square root /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* the number which when multiplied by itself equals a particular number: *If 3 is the square root of 9* (written $\sqrt{9}$), *then 3 x 3=9.*

squash[1] /skwɒʃ‖skwɑːʃ, skwɔːʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to force into a flat shape; crush: *I sat on my hat/the box/the tomato and squashed it. | The car was squashed flat by the lorry. | The flowers I was carrying got squashed in the crowded train.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to push or fit into a small space, esp. with difficulty; SQUEEZE: *They all squashed into the tiny compartment. | I squashed a few more clothes into my case and forced it shut.* **3** [T] to force into silence or inactivity: *I squashed him with a sarcastic remark. | to squash dissent/rumours*

squash[2] *n* **1** [S] the condition of being squashed: *Five people in this car is a bit of a squash, but we'll manage.* **2** [U] also **squash rack·ets** /ˈ· ··/ *fml*— a game played in a four-walled court by usu. two people with RACKETS[1] (smaller than for tennis) and a small rather soft rubber ball —compare RACQUETBALL **3** [U] *BrE* a sweet drink made by adding water to the juice of a CITRUS fruit: *a glass of orange/lemon squash* —compare CRUSH[2] (2)



see also picture at **racquetball**

squash[3] *n* [C;U] *esp. AmE* any of a group of large vegetables with hard skins, including MARROWS, GOURDS, and PUMPKINS

squash·y /ˈskwɒʃi‖ˈskwɑːʃi, ˈskwɔːʃi/ *adj infml* soft and easy to press or crush: *squashy overripe tomatoes* —**-iness** *n* [U]

squat[1] /skwɒt‖skwɑːt/ *v* **-tt-** [I] **1** [(DOWN, **on**)] to sit on a surface with the knees bent and the legs drawn fully up under the body, esp. balancing on the front of the feet: *He squatted down beside the footprints and examined them closely.* | *to squat on one's haunches.* **2** [(**in, on**)] to live in an empty building without owning it, paying rent, or getting permission —see also SQUATTER **3** [(**on**)] *AmE* to settle on public or government-owned land in the hope of owning it some day. This was esp. formerly when people were first settling in the western part of the US: *He and his family squatted on some land near a lake.*

squat[2] *n* **1** [S] a squatting position **2** [C] *BrE* an empty building for squatting in

squat[3] *adj* **-tt-** ungracefully short or low and thick: *an ugly squat tower*

squat·ter /ˈskwɒtəʳ‖ˈskwɑːt-/ *n* **1** *BrE* a person who lives in an empty building without permission or payment of rent

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, some people, esp. young people, move into and live in empty houses and flats in this way esp. in cities. If the building is owned by a local authority, they sometimes allow squatters to stay there if, for example, there is a plan to pull the building down. If the property is privately-owned, the owner may take legal action to get squatters out.◄

2 a settler on unowned land who does not pay rent but has legal rights over it (**squatter's rights**) and may sometimes become its owner

squaw /skwɔː/ *n* a Native American Indian wife, esp. in former times

squawk[1] /skwɔːk/ *v* [I] **1** (esp. of certain types of bird) to make a loud sharp cry: *His parrot squawks all day long.* **2** *infml* to complain loudly: *They're always the first to squawk when their rights are infringed.* —~**er** *n*

squawk[2] *n* an act or noise of squawking: *the squawks of seagulls|of taxpayers*

squeak[1] /skwiːk/ *v* [I] **1** to make a short very high, but not loud, sound: *The mouse squeaked.* | *These old bedsprings squeak whenever I move.* | *a squeaking door* **2** [+*adv|prep*] *infml* to succeed, pass, or win narrowly, only just avoiding failure: *Only eight could go on to the next round, and I squeaked through in eighth place.* —~**er** *n*

squeak[2] *n* a short very high soft sound: *the squeak of a mouse* | *(infml) I don't want to hear another squeak out of you!* (=keep quiet) —see also BUBBLE AND SQUEAK, NARROW SQUEAK

squeak·y /ˈskwiːki/ *adj* **1** that squeaks: *a squeaky door|voice* **2 squeaky clean** *infml, esp. AmE* **a** very clean **b** *humor* morally pure: *her squeaky clean public image*

squeal[1] /skwiːl/ *v* [I] **1** to make a long very high sound or cry: *The children squealed with delight.* **2** [(**on**)] *sl* to give secret information about one's criminal friends to the police —~**er** *n*

squeal[2] *n* a long very high sound or cry: *There was a squeal of tyres|brakes as the car stopped suddenly.* | *Squeals of delight|protest came from the children.*

squeam·ish /ˈskwiːmɪʃ/ *adj* easily shocked, upset, or made to feel sick by unpleasant things: *I could never be a nurse; I'm too squeamish.* | *It's a violent film, so don't go if you're squeamish.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

squee·gee /ˈskwiːdʒiː/ *n* a tool with a straight-edged rubber blade and short handle, for removing or spreading liquid on a surface: *She cleaned the windows with a squeegee.* —**squeegee** *v* [T]

squeeze[1] /skwiːz/ *v* **1** [T] to press firmly together, esp. from opposite sides: *She squeezed the tube hard and the last of the toothpaste came out.* | *He squeezed her arm sympathetically.* | *Would you squeeze some oranges and make me a glass of juice?* | *He squeezed out the wet sponge.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to get or force out by squeezing: *She squeezed the water out of the sponge|squeezed some toothpaste onto her brush.* | (fig.) *He managed to squeeze ten pages of text out of one small incident.* | (fig.) *The company is being squeezed out of this market by very aggressive competition.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to fit by forcing, pressing, or crowding: *Is the car full or can I squeeze in?* | *He was so fat that he could only just squeeze through the door.* | (fig.) *It was a close game, but we managed to squeeze home* (=win narrowly) *by two points.* | *She tries to squeeze her feet into shoes that are too small.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to provide with a place|or space, esp. with difficulty; find space or time for: *You'll find the shop squeezed between two big office buildings.* | *How can you squeeze so many things into a day?* | *I know the doctor is extremely busy, but do you think he could squeeze me in* (=see me) *for two minutes?* **5** [T] to cause money difficulties to, esp. by means of tight controls or severe demands: *Many businesses are being squeezed by high costs and reduced sales.* | *The latest cuts will result in the education budget being squeezed still further.*

squeeze[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of pressing in from opposite sides or around: *He gave her hand a gentle squeeze.* **2** [C (**of**)] a small amount pressed out: *I like my tea with a squeeze of lemon.* —see picture at PIECE **3** [S] *infml* a crowded state; SQUASH: *There's room for one more, but it'll be a (tight) squeeze.* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] (esp. in business) a difficult situation caused by short supplies, tight controls, or high costs: *a credit squeeze* **5 put the squeeze on** *infml* to put pressure on: *They're putting the squeeze on him to sign that agreement.*

squeeze·box /ˈskwiːzbɒks‖-bɑːks/ *n infml for* ACCORDION

squeez·er /ˈskwiːzəʳ/ *n* an apparatus that presses the juice from fruit, esp. oranges and LEMONS

squelch /skweltʃ/ *v* **1** [I] to make, or move while making, a sound of a partly liquid substance being pressed down and drawn up, for example when stepping through mud: *We squelched up the muddy lane to the farm.* **2** [T] *AmE* to make (someone) be silent or feel unimportant, esp. by saying something cruel: *He squelched her showing off by making a sarcastic remark about her clothes.* —**squelch** *n* [*usu. sing.*] : *the squelch of swamp water in their boots* —~**y** *adj* : *squelchy ground*

squib /skwɪb/ *n* **1** a small toy explosive **2** a short not usu. serious piece of writing, esp. attacking a politician or political party —see also DAMP SQUIB

squid /skwɪd/ *n* **squid** *or* **squids** a sea creature with ten arms at one end of a long soft body that is strengthened by a thin flat structure inside —see picture at OCTOPUS

squidg·y /ˈskwɪdʒi/ *adj BrE infml* soft and wet, e.g. like thick mud

squif·fy /ˈskwɪfi/ *adj old-fash BrE infml* slightly drunk

squig·gle /ˈskwɪgəl/ *n infml* a short wavy or twisting line, esp. written or printed: *What do these squiggles on the map mean?* —**-gly** *adj* : *squiggly lines*

squint[1] /skwɪnt/ *v* [I] **1** to look with almost closed eyes: *The sun was so bright I had to squint.* | *He took careful aim, squinting down the rifle barrel.* **2** [*not in progressive forms*] to have a SQUINT[2] (1)

squint[2] *n* **1** a disorder of the eye muscles causing the eyes to look in two different directions: *He's got a bad squint.* **2** [**(at)**] an act of looking hard through nearly closed eyes **3** [**(at)**] *AmE infml* a quick look; GLANCE: *Take a squint at these figures.*

squire[1] /skwaɪəʳ/ *n* **1** (in former times) the main landowner in an English village or country place —compare LAIRD **2** (in former times) a KNIGHT's armour-carrier **3** *BrE infml* (used esp. by a man as a friendly way of speaking to another man whose name is not known, and who may be of a higher social class)

squire[2] *v* [T] *AmE* to travel with (someone) as their companion to various social events: *He squired her around town.*

squire·ar·chy , squirarchy /ˈskwaɪərɑːki‖-ɑːr-/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] the class of country landowners holding political power, esp. in England until 1832

squirm /skwɜːm‖skɜːrm/ *v* [I] to twist the body about, esp. from discomfort, shame, or nervousness: *The eels squirmed in the fisherman's net.* | *She was squirming with embarrassment.* | (fig.) *The film was so sentimental that it made me squirm.* —**squirm** *n*

squir·rel /ˈskwɪrəl‖ˈskwɜːrəl/ *n* a small animal with a long furry tail that climbs trees and eats nuts which it also stores for the winter: *a red/grey squirrel* —see picture at RODENT

squirt[1] /skwɜːt‖skwɜːrt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to force or be forced out in a thin fast stream: *Water squirted from the punctured hose.* | *Squirt oil into the lock.* **2** [T **(with)**] to hit or cover with such a stream of liquid: *The children squirted their father with water from a plastic bottle.* —~**er** *n*

squirt[2] *n* **1** [**(of)**] a quick thin stream of liquid: *Give the lock a couple of squirts of oil.* —see picture at PIECE **2** *old-fash derog* a young or small person, esp. a male, who is rude or acts too importantly

squirt gun /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* WATER PISTOL

squish /skwɪʃ/ *v infml* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to press down gently on a substance, such as mud, which is soft and wet, so that one makes a soft noise **2** [T] *infml* to SQUASH or SQUEEZE: *Careful, don't squish the tomatoes.* —**squish** *n* [*usu. sing.*] —~**y** *adj*

Sr *written abbrev. for:* **1** [after *n*] (added to the name of a man, when he and his son have the same name) SENIOR: *Douglas Fairbanks Sr* **2** [A] SEÑOR: *Sr Lopez*

Sri Lan·ka /sriː ˈlæŋkə/ an island in S Asia, in the Indian Ocean, SE of India, formerly called Ceylon; capital city, Colombo; population 16,806,000 (1989). It was ruled by the British from 1798 to 1948. —**Sri Lankan** *n,adj*

SRN /ˌes ɑːr ˈen/ *n abbrev. for:* STATE REGISTERED NURSE

SRO /ˌes ɑːr ˈəʊ/ *n* STANDING ROOM only

SS /ˈes es/ [A] *n abbrev. for:* STEAMSHIP

SS /ˌes ˈes◂/ [*the*] the special soldiers of the NAZIS in Germany who protected Adolf Hitler and, from 1929, were commanded by Heinrich Himmler. They controlled the secret police, the Gestapo, and the CONCENTRATION CAMPS where millions of people died in the 1930s and 1940s. They were also known as the Blackshirts.

ssh /ʃ/ ‖ **shh** *AmE— interj* (used for asking for silence or less noise)

SSI /ˌes es ˈaɪ/ *n* [U] Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled; in the US, money given to poor people over 65 or who are blind or who have a disability

SSN /ˌes es ˈen/ *n AmE abbrev. for:* SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

SST /ˌes es ˈtiː/ *n* supersonic transport; an aircraft that can travel faster than the speed of sound

St also **St.** *written abbrev. for:* **1** [A] SAINT: *St Luke's Gospel* **2** [after *n* or *adj*] Street: *Oxford St* | *Church St* | *Main St*

stab[1] /stæb/ *v* **-bb-** [I **(at)**;T **(in)**] **1** to strike forcefully (into) with the point of something sharp, esp. a knife, rather than with its edge: *Caesar was stabbed to death.* | *She stabbed him in the leg with a knife.* **2** to make forceful pushing movements with (something pointed); JAB: *He stabbed his finger at her/at the page angrily.* **3 stab someone in the back** to do harm to someone by whom one is liked or trusted; BETRAY someone —~**ber** *n*

stab[2] *n* **1** [**(at)**] an act of stabbing or trying to stab someone: *He made a vicious stab at me with a broken bottle.* | *She was taken to hospital with severe stab wounds.* **2** [**(of)**] a sudden sharp painful feeling: *I felt a stab of pain/fear/remorse.* **3** [**(at)**] *infml* a try: *I don't think I'd be much good, but I'm willing to* **have/make a stab** *at it.* **4 stab in the back** an attack from someone supposed to be a friend; BETRAYAL

stab·bing[1] /ˈstæbɪŋ/ *adj* (esp. of pain) as if made by a knife; sharp and sudden: *a stabbing sensation/pain in his foot*

stabbing[2] *n* a crime in which a person is stabbed: *There was a stabbing near the university last night.*

sta·bil·i·ty /stəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U] the quality or state of being stable: *His constant absences threaten the stability of his marriage.* | *the stability of the pound* | *a long period of political stability* —opposite **instability**

sta·bil·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsteɪbɨlaɪz/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become firm, steady, or unchanging: *The price of coffee has been rising and falling sharply, but has now (been) stabilized.* —**-ization** /ˌsteɪbɨlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [U]

sta·bi|l·iz·er also **-iser** *BrE* /ˈsteɪbɨlaɪzəʳ/ *n* an apparatus or chemical that stabilizes something: *The ship's stabilizers keep it steady in bad weather.*

sta·ble[1] /ˈsteɪbəl/ *adj* **1** not easily moved, upset, or changed; firm; steady: *The ladder isn't very stable.* | *a stable marriage/government/rate of exchange* | *a politically stable country* **2** unlikely to behave unreasonably; dependable: *He's a bit neurotic, but his wife's a very stable person.* **3** *tech* (of a substance) tending to keep the same chemical or atomic state; not breaking down naturally —opposite **unstable** —**-bly** *adv*

stable[2] *n* **1** also **stables** *pl.*— *BrE* a (part of a) building for keeping and feeding horses in: *a stable door* **2** *AmE* a (part of a) building for keeping and feeding horses, cattle, etc., in **3** [**(of)**] a group of racing horses with one owner or trainer: *She's built up an impressive stable of steeplechasers over the years.* | (fig.) *The new British boxing champion is from Terry Dixon's stable of fighters.*

stable[3] *v* [T] to put or keep (a horse) in a stable

stable boy /ˈ·· ·/ also **stable lad** *BrE* ‖ **sta·ble·boy** /ˈsteɪbəlbɔɪ/, **stable·man** /-mən, -mæn/ *AmE— n* a man or boy who works in a stable and looks after horses

sta·bling /ˈsteɪblɪŋ/ *n* [U] space in STABLES[2] (1): *There's stabling here for five horses.*

stac·cat·o /stəˈkɑːtəʊ/ *adj, adv* (of music) (having notes) cut short in playing; disconnected(ly): (fig.) *He spoke in a high-pitched, staccato manner.* —compare LEGATO

stack[1] /stæk/ *n* **1** [**(of)**] an orderly pile of things one above another: *a stack of papers/dishes/coins* —see PILE (USAGE) and see picture at PILE **2** a large pile of grain, grass, etc., stored outdoors —see also HAYSTACK **3** [**(of)**] also **stacks** *pl.— esp. BrE infml* a large amount or number: *I've got stacks of work/a stack of work to do.* **4** also **stacks** *pl.*— a part of a library where books are stored close together —see also CHIMNEYSTACK, SMOKESTACK, **blow one's stack** (BLOW)

stack[2] *v* **1** [I;T (UP)] to form or make into a neat pile: *They are specially packaged so that they stack easily.* | *Stack the books up against the wall.* **2** [T **(with)** *usu. pass.*] to put piles of things on or in (a place): *The floor was stacked with boxes.* **3** [T **(against)**] *infml* to arrange (esp. playing cards) dishonestly so as to give oneself an unfair advantage: *He accused his opponent of stacking the cards.* | (fig.) *I don't think we'll win; the* **cards/odds are stacked** *against us.* (=everything is to our disadvantage) **4** [T (UP)] to make (an aircraft) fly in a pattern with others waiting for a turn to land at an airport

stack up *phr v* [I **(against)**] *infml, esp. AmE* to compare; match: *How does their product stack up against those of their commercial rivals?*

stacked /stækt/ *adj AmE infml* (of a woman) having large breasts and an attractive body; women find this word offensive

sta·di·um /ˈsteɪdiəm/ *n* **-diums** *or* **-dia** /diə/ (a sports field surrounded by) a large sometimes unroofed building with rows of seats: *a football/baseball stadium* —see colour picture on page 883

staff[1] /stɑːf‖stæf/ *n* **1** [C+*sing./pl. v*] the group of workers who carry on a job or do the work of an organization, esp.

of a teaching or business organization: *The school's staff is|are excellent.* | *I have a staff of 15.* | *It's good to have you* **on** (=as a member of) **our|the staff** —compare WORKFORCE; see also GENERAL STAFF, GROUND STAFF **2** [P] *BrE* members of such a group: *She's in charge of about 20 staff.*| *complaints by (members of) staff about working conditions.* | *a special car park for the senior staff* | *The reorganization may lead to staff reductions.* **3** [C] (*pl* **staves**) a long thick stick of the kind that is **a** carried when walking or **b** used as a mark of office **4** [C] a pole for flying a flag on; FLAGPOLE **5** [C] (in music) a STAVE[1] (1)

staff[2] *v* [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] to provide the workers for: *The refugee centre is staffed mainly by|with volunteers.* —see also OVERSTAFFED, UNDERSTAFFED

staff nurse /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a British hospital nurse next in rank below a SISTER (4)

staff of·fi·cer /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* an officer who helps a military commander of high rank rather than commanding soldiers himself

staff of life /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] *lit* bread, thought of as the most important kind of food

Stafford /ˈstæfəd‖-fərd/ a town in W central England, where the local government for Staffordshire is based

Staf·ford·shire /ˈstæfədʃəʳ‖-fərd-/ *written abbrev.* **Staffs**— a COUNTY in W central England famous esp. for its factories making CHINA (=plates, cups, etc.)

staff ser·geant /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

stag /stæg/ *n* **1** (*pl.* **stags** *or* **stag**) a fully grown male deer **2** *BrE* a person who buys shares in a new company hoping to sell them quickly at a profit **3 go stag** *AmE infml* (of a man) to go to a social event without a female companion: *He went stag to the prom.* —see also STAG NIGHT, STAG PARTY

stage[1] /steɪdʒ/ *n* **1** the raised floor on which plays are performed in a theatre: *a stage set for an indoor scene* | *The actor was* **on stage** *for most of the play.* | *He'd always wanted to go* **on the stage**. (=become an actor) | *Her servant enters|exits* **stage left/right.** (=from the left/right side of the stage as one looks out towards the theatre seats) | *a well-known novel that has been adapted for the stage* (=for performance as a play) | (fig.) *He's very vain; he always wants to be at the centre of the stage.* —see picture at THEATRE **2** a particular point or period in the course of a process or set of events; state reached at a particular time: *The plan is still in its early stages|at an early stage.* | *The calculations are rechecked at every stage of the construction.* | *At this stage of the negotiations, it would be unwise to comment on their chances of success.*| *Don't worry about your daughter's odd behaviour; it's just* **a stage she's going through.** | *the stages of development of the frog* | *The proposed new law is currently at the committee stage.* —compare PHASE[1] (1), STEP[1] (6); see also COMMITTEE STAGE **3 a** a part of a journey: *We travelled by (easy) stages, often stopping along the way.* **b** a fixed division of a race that takes place over several days: *That cyclist won the second stage of the Tour de France.* **4** a single complete driving part of a ROCKET[1] (1): *a three-stage rocket* **5** a STAGECOACH **6 Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs Worthington** the title of an old humorous popular song which warned parents that life in the theatre encouraged immorality in young people **7 All the world's a stage** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *As You Like It.* It is the first line of a long speech comparing the world to a stage and the different parts of a person's life to different characters that the person plays **8 set the stage for** to prepare for or make possible: *The unjust peace treaty merely set the stage for another war.* —see also LANDING STAGE

stage[2] *v* [T] **1** to perform or arrange for public show; put on: *to stage a play|an art show|a charity football game* **2** to cause to happen, esp. for public effect: *The union staged a one-day strike.* | *The pop star staged a row with his manager in a restaurant to get maximum publicity.*

stage·coach /ˈsteɪdʒkəʊtʃ/ also **stage**— *n* (in former times) a horse-drawn closed vehicle carrying passengers on regular services between fixed places

stage di·rec·tion /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* a written description of something an actor must do on stage in performing a play: *Here the stage direction says "Goes and looks out of the window".*

stage door /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* the side or back door in a theatre, used by actors and stage workers

stage fright /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] nervousness felt by someone performing or esp. about to perform in public

stage·hand /ˈsteɪdʒhænd/ *n* someone who works on a theatre stage, moving scenery, painting scenery, etc.

stage-man·age /ˈ· ˌ··/ *v* [T] *infml* to arrange or prepare for public effect, esp. so that a desired result will happen in a way that will appear natural: *The press conference was cleverly stage-managed so that the President would not have to answer any embarrassing questions.*

stage man·ag·er /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* the person in charge of a theatre stage during a performance

stage name /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a name used professionally by an actor instead of his or her real name

stage·struck /ˈsteɪdʒstrʌk/ *adj* in love with the theatre and esp. with the idea of being an actor

stage whis·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** an actor's loud whisper supposedly not heard by other actors on the stage **2** a loud whisper intended to be heard by everyone

stage·y /ˈsteɪdʒi/ *adj* STAGY

stag·fla·tion /stægˈfleɪʃən/ *n* [U] an economic condition in which there is INFLATION (=continuing rise in prices) but the ECONOMY is not growing, so many people do not have jobs and businesses are not doing well: *economic stagflation during a recession*

stag·ger[1] /ˈstægəʳ/ *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*] to walk or move unsteadily and with great difficulty, almost falling: *The drunken man staggered towards us|away.* | *He staggered to the door, bleeding from his wounds.* | (*infml*) *I finally staggered into bed at 3 o'clock in the morning.* —compare TOTTER **2** [T] to cause to feel shocked disbelief; seem almost unbelievable to: *Her incredible story staggers the imagination.* | *I was staggered by his outrageous suggestion.* **3** [T] to arrange (esp. working hours, holidays, etc.) not to begin and end at the same time **4** [T] to start (a race on a track with a bend) with each runner starting at a different place so that in the end everyone runs the same distance, e.g. in a 400 metres race

stagger[2] *n* an unsteady movement of a person having trouble walking or standing

stag·ger·ing /ˈstægərɪŋ/ *adj* almost unbelievable; very surprising and shocking: *It cost a staggering £30,000!* — ~**ly** *adv*

stag·ing /ˈsteɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] the action or art of performing a play: *an imaginative modern-dress staging of "Hamlet"* **2** [U] movable boards and frames for standing on; SCAFFOLDING

staging post /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a place at which regular stops are made on long journeys: *Bahrain is a staging post on the flight from Britain to Australia* —compare STOPOVER

stag·nant /ˈstægnənt/ *adj* **1** (esp. of water) not flowing or moving, and often bad-smelling: *a stagnant pond covered with scum* **2** not developing or growing; inactive; STATIC: *Due to low investment, our industrial output has remained stagnant.* — ~**ly** *adv* —**-nancy** *n* [U]

stag·nate /stægˈneɪt‖ˈstægneɪt/ *v* [I] to become stagnant; stop moving or developing: *a stagnating economy* | *She didn't want to stagnate in her dull office job until she retired.* —**-nation** /stægˈneɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *economic stagnation*

stag night /ˈ· ·/ *n* the night before a man's wedding, which he spends with his male friends only, usu. having a party or (in Britain) a few drinks in a pub

stag par·ty /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a party for men only esp. on the night before a man's wedding: *He had a hangover after drinking too much at his stag party.* —compare HEN PARTY

stag·y, stagey /ˈsteɪdʒi/ *adj derog* as if acting or acted on stage; not natural: *a very stagy manner* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

staid /steɪd/ *adj* having a serious and dull nature; unadventurous: *a staid old bachelor* | *staid attitudes* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

stain[1] /steɪn/ *v* **1** [I;T] to mark or discolour in a way that is lasting or difficult to remove: *This carpet stains easily, so try not to spill anything on it.* | *His teeth were stained with nicotine from years of smoking.* **2** [T] to change in colour, esp. by darkening with a DYE or chemical substance: *I'm going to stain the chairs (brown) with wood*

dye to match the table. | *(tech) to stain a specimen for microscopic analysis*

stain[2] *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a stained place or spot: *The police found blood stains on the suspect's clothes.* | *I washed the tablecloth several times but couldn't get the gravy stains out.* | (fig.) *He was released without a stain on his character.* (=with no suggestion at all that he was guilty or bad) **2** [C;U] a chemical for darkening esp. wood or for putting on things under a microscope so as to make them easier to see

stained glass /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] glass of different colours used for making pictures and patterns in windows, esp. in church windows

stain·less /ˈsteɪnləs/ *adj* **1** of a kind not easily marked or stained, esp. by RUST: *a set of* **stainless steel** *cutlery* **2** *lit* without a mark of guilt or shame

stair /steəʳ/ *n* **1** *esp. lit* stairs: *We climbed down the steep winding stair.* | *The stair carpet is held down by stair rods.* **2** any of the steps in a set of stairs: *She sat on the bottom stair.*

stair·case /ˈsteəkeɪs‖ˈsteər-/ also **stair·way** /-weɪ/– *n* a set of stairs with its supports and side parts for holding on to –see also ESCALATOR

stair rods /ˈ· ·/ *n* [P] *BrE infml* **raining stair rods** raining very hard

stairs /steəz‖steərz/ *n* [P] **1** a fixed length of steps built for going from one level to another, esp. inside a building: *He ran up/down the stairs.* | *She was standing at the top/bottom/foot of the stairs with her hand on the banister.* | *The attic is up five* **flights of stairs.** (=is on the fifth floor) –see also DOWNSTAIRS, UPSTAIRS **2 above/below stairs** (in former times) in the masters'/servants' part of the house

stair·way /ˈsteəweɪ‖ˈsteər-/ *n* a staircase

stair·well /ˈsteəwel‖ˈsteər-/ *n* the space, going up through all the floors of a building, where the stairs are

stake[1] /steɪk/ *n* **1** a pointed piece of wood, metal, etc., for driving into the ground as a mark, for holding a rope, etc. **2** (in former times) a post to which a person was tied for being killed, esp. by burning: *Heretics were often* **burnt at the stake.** | (fig.) *It's a fairly important principle, but I wouldn't* **go to the stake for** *it.* (=take great risks to defend it) **3** [(**in**)] a share in something, esp. in a business, that gives one an interest in whether it succeeds or fails: *We must give young people the feeling that they have a stake in the country's future.* | *The company is selling off its 15% stake in the Commercial Bank.* **4** money risked on the result of something; esp. a horse race; BET[1] (2) **5 at stake** at risk; dependent on what happens: *The company is on the verge of bankruptcy, and hundreds of jobs are at stake.* –see also STAKES **6 pull up stakes** *AmE infml* to leave one's job or home: *I'm going to pull up stakes and move to Montana.*

stake[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**on**)] **a** to risk (money) on the result of a race or competition **b** to risk the loss of (something valuable, such as one's life or public position) on a result, esp. because one is confident of success: *The prime minister is staking his reputation/credibility on a successful outcome to the arms talks.* | *I've staked all my hopes on you.* **2** [(UP)] to fasten or strengthen with STAKES[1] (1): *to stake a young tree* **3** [(OFF, OUT)] to mark or enclose (an area of ground) with STAKES[1] (1): *The muddiest corner of the field has been staked off.* **4 stake (out) a/one's claim (to)** to make a claim; state that one has a right to have something: *He staked a claim to the land where he'd found the gold.* | (fig.) *With her latest novel she stakes her claim to greatness.*

stake sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml, esp. AmE* (esp. of the police) to watch (a place) continuously in secret – **stakeout** /ˈsteɪk-aʊt/ *n*

stake sbdy. **to** sthg. *phr v* [T] *AmE* to provide (someone) with the money needed to pay for (something): *My father's promised to stake me to a new car when I'm 18.*

stake·hold·er /ˈsteɪkˌhəʊldəʳ/ *n* **1** a person chosen to hold the money given by opponents in a race, BET, etc., and give it all to the winner **2** *law* a person, usu. a lawyer, who takes charge of property during the time of a quarrel or sale

stakes /steɪks/ *n* **1** [P] the prize or reward (at risk) in a competition or activity: *We're playing for very high stakes.* **2** [S+*sing./pl. v*] a horse race in which the prize money is made up equally by the owners of the horses: *The Acorn Stakes is/are being run at 3.00.*

stal·ac·tite /ˈstæləktaɪt‖stəˈlæktaɪt/ *n* a sharp downward-pointing part of a CAVE roof, like an ICICLE, formed over a long time by mineral-containing water dropping from the roof

stal·ag /ˈstælæg‖ˈstɑːlɑːg/ *n* a German camp for prisoners of war during the Second World War

stal·ag·mite /ˈstæləgmaɪt‖stəˈlægmaɪt/ *n* an upward-pointing part of a CAVE floor formed by drops from a stalactite and often joining it to form a solid connection between roof and floor

St Al·bans /sənt ˈɔːlbənz‖seɪnt-/ a city in S England, just N of London. It is known esp. for its CATHEDRAL and its Roman ruins.

stale[1] /steɪl/ *adj* **1** no longer fresh; no longer good to eat, smell, etc.: *stale bread* | *stale air* **2** no longer interesting; not new or exciting: *He told the same stale old jokes I've heard fifty times before.* | *stale news* **3** (of a person) without interest, liveliness, or new ideas, esp. as a result of doing the same thing for too long: *I'm getting stale in this job – I need a change.* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

stale[2] *v* [I] to become stale

stale·mate[1] /ˈsteɪlmeɪt/ *n* [C;U] **1** (in CHESS) a position in which one of the players does not have his king in CHECK[1] (8), but has no allowable move, which means that neither player wins **2** a situation in which neither side in a quarrel can get an advantage; DEADLOCK: *The discussions with the miners' union ended in (a) stalemate.* – compare CHECKMATE[1]

stalemate[2] *v* [T] to bring to a stalemate

Sta·lin /ˈstɑːlɪn/, **Joseph** (1879–1953) a leader of the USSR from 1924 to 1953, born in Georgia, who was responsible for developing the farming and industry of the USSR. He also led the USSR in the war against Germany (1941–45) and reached agreements after the war which brought much of Eastern Europe under Soviet control. He is now remembered esp. for his cruelty, as he killed or imprisoned his political opponents and used his secret police to terrorize ordinary people. He was severely criticized by Khrushchev in 1956 and later by Gorbachev. –see picture on page 752

Sta·lin·grad /ˈstɑːlɪngræd/ the old name for the city of Volgograd in the former USSR on the river Volga. The city was almost destroyed in the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942–43.

Sta·lin·is·m /ˈstɑːlɪnɪzəm/ *n* [U] the political, social, and economic principles and practice of COMMUNISM developed by Stalin which had centralized planning, the total power of the leader of the state, and the widespread use of terror –**Stalinist** *n*

stalk[1] /stɔːk/ *n* **1** a long narrow part of a plant supporting one or more leaves, fruits, or flowers; stem: *cabbage stalks* | *broken stalks of wheat* –see pictures at FLOWER and FRUIT **2** a thin upright object: *A crab's eyes are on stalks.*

stalk[2] *v* **1** [T (**to**)] to hunt by following closely and quietly and staying hidden: *We stalked the wounded tiger to its lair.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk stiffly, proudly, or with long steps: *When his request was refused, he stalked out.* **3** [I;T] *esp. lit* (of GHOSTS and evils regarded as living things) to move silently (through) in a threatening manner: *Disease stalked (through) the city.* – ~**er** *n*

Stalk·er /ˈstɔːkəʳ/, **John** a British police officer of very high rank who went to Northern Ireland in 1984 to lead an inquiry into the actions of the RUC (the police force of Northern Ireland) following claims that the RUC were using a shoot-to-kill policy against the IRA. In June 1986, he was removed from the inquiry. Stalker claimed that he was removed from the shoot-to-kill inquiry for political reasons, and the **Stalker affair** was given much attention in the newspapers and on television and caused discussion and concern.

stalking horse /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* something or someone that hides a true purpose, esp. a CANDIDATE for political office put forward to hide or draw attention away from the real candidate: *John Taylor's name has been suggested for the election of a new president but I think he is just a stalking horse.*

stall[1] /stɔːl/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* (*often in comb.*) a table or small open-fronted shop in a public place: *a market stall* | *a*

fruitstall | a bookstall **2** an indoor enclosure for an animal: *The cattle are in their stalls.* **3** any of a row of fixed usu. roofed seats along the sides in the central part of some large churches: *the choir stalls* **4** a small enclosure inside a room: *a separate shower stall in the bathroom* **5** a FINGERSTALL —see also STALLS

stall[2] *v* **1** [I;T] **a** (of an engine or vehicle) to stop because there is not enough power or speed to keep going: *The engine/car stalled on the hill.* **b** to cause (an engine or vehicle) to do this: *An inexperienced pilot can easily stall his plane.* **2** [I] *infml* to delay in order to gain time, avoid taking a decision, etc.; intentionally take no action: *Stop stalling and answer my question!* **3** [T] *infml* to deal with by delaying; put off: *Perhaps we can stall the sale until we are sure of having enough money. | The boss is coming! Stall him for a moment.*

stall[3] *n* an act or example of stalling a machine: *The plane went into a stall.*

stall·hold·er /ˈstɔːlˌhəʊldəʳ/ *n BrE* a person who rents and keeps a market stall

stal·lion /ˈstæljən/ *n* a fully-grown male horse kept for breeding —compare MARE

Stal·lone /stəˈləʊn/, **Syl·ves·ter** /sɪlˈvestəʳ/ (1946–) an American film actor, best-known for playing the part of Rambo in the films of that name —see picture at RAMBO and colour picture on page 685

stalls /stɔːlz/ *n* [(*the*)P] *BrE* the seats on the main level of a theatre or cinema: *a good seat in the front of the stalls* —see picture at THEATRE

stal·wart[1] /ˈstɔːlwət‖-wərt/ *adj* strong and firm in body, mind, determination, etc.; STAUNCH: *a stalwart supporter/fighter | stalwart support* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

stalwart[2] *n* a firm dependable follower, esp. of a political party

sta·men /ˈsteɪmən/ *n tech* the male POLLEN-producing part of a flower —see picture at FLOWER

Stam·ford Bridge /ˌstæmfəd ˈbrɪdʒ‖-fərd-/ **1** a village in N England where King Harold won a battle shortly before he was killed at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 **2** the football ground of Chelsea Football Club in W London

stam·i·na /ˈstæmɨnə/ *n* [U] the strength of body or mind to fight tiredness, discouragement, or illness: *You need great stamina to run the 10,000 metres.*

stam·mer[1] /ˈstæməʳ/ *v* [I;T (OUT)] to speak or say with pauses and repeated sounds, either habitually or because of excitement, fear, etc.: *She stammers when she feels nervous. | He stammered out his thanks. | "Th-th-thank you," he stammered.* —compare STUTTER[1] (1) — ~**er** *n* — ~**ingly** *adv*

stammer[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] the habit of stammering in speech: *He's got a bad stammer.*

stamp[1] /stæmp/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to bring the foot or feet down hard; step with force: *He was stamping about in the snow trying to keep his feet warm. | She stamped on the insect and killed it. | stamping around the house in a furious temper* | (fig.) *Any opposition or disagreement was quickly stamped on.* (=stopped) **2** [T] to strike downwards with (the foot): *She stamped her feet in anger.* **3** [T] to mark (a pattern, sign, letters, etc.) on (an object or surface) by pressing: *The immigration officer stamped my passport.* [+*obj*+**on**] *The office stamps the date on all incoming letters.* [+*obj*+**with**] *They stamp all incoming letters with the date. |* (fig.) *His years in the army had stamped him with an air of brisk authority.* **4** [T] to stick a stamp onto: *Did you remember to stamp that letter? | Enclose a stamped addressed envelope.* **5** [T **(as)**] to put into a class or type; CHARACTERIZE: *The newspapers had unfairly stamped him as* (=said he was) *a liar.*

stamp sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to put an end to (usu. something bad) completely: *Do you think this new law will stamp out the illegal drugs trade?* **2** to form or produce by means of heavy pressure from a shaped tool or machine: *a large machine that stamps out car bodies*

stamp[2] *n* **1** also **postage stamp** *fml*— a small usu. four-sided piece of paper sold by post offices in various values for sticking on a letter, parcel, etc., to be posted: *a 20-cent stamp | a stamp collector* **2** *BrE* a piece of paper like this for sticking to certain official papers to show that tax (**stamp duty**) has been paid **3** *AmE* a mark or pattern pressed or printed onto a paper to show that it is official or that tax has been paid **4** an instrument or tool for pressing or printing onto a surface: *a date-stamp* **5** a mark or pattern made by this: *The stamp in your library book shows it must be returned tomorrow.* | (fig., *fml*) *Her remarks bear* **the stamp of** *truth.* (=seem true) | (fig.) *The traumatic events* **left their stamp on** (=had a lasting effect on) *his mind.* **6** an act of stamping, esp. with the foot **7** a TRADING STAMP **8** *fml or pomp* a kind; sort: *I wouldn't trust a man of his stamp.* —see also FOOD STAMP, RUBBER STAMP

Stamp Act /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] a tax which the British government put on the American colonies (COLONY) in 1765 which said that various documents would have to carry a stamp which had to be paid for. The people in the colonies protested that they were being taxed but had no one in Parliament to speak for them (**"taxation without representation"**). The tax was removed in 1766, but was still one of the events that led to the American Revolutionary War.

stamp du·ty /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a tax payable in Britain on certain legal documents which have to be officially checked

stam·pede[1] /stæmˈpiːd/ *n* **1** a sudden rush of frightened animals **2** a sudden mad rush or mass movement: *There's been a stampede to buy gold before the price goes up.* **3** *AmE & CanE* a RODEO, usu. also with competitions, shows, dancing, etc.: *The Calgary Stampede*

stampede[2] *v* [I;T **(into)**] to (cause to) go in a stampede or unreasonable rush: *a herd of stampeding cattle | Rumours of a shortage stampeded people into buying up food.*

stamping ground /ˈ·· ·/ *n infml* a favourite very familiar place: *This part of town is one of Jack's old stamping grounds.*

stance /stɑːns‖stæns/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a way of standing, esp. when getting ready to hit the ball in various sports: *First take up the correct stance.* **2** [**(on)**] a way of thinking, esp. a publicly-stated position regarding a particular situation; ATTITUDE: *What's your government's stance on nuclear disarmament? | The President has adopted a tough stance on terrorism.* —compare POSTURE[1]

stanch /stɑːntʃ‖stɔːntʃ, stɑːntʃ/ *v* [T] *AmE for* STAUNCH[2]

stan·chion /ˈstɑːntʃən‖ˈstæn-/ *n* a strong bar standing straight up as a support

stand[1] /stænd/ *v* **stood** /stʊd/ ■ to be in, get into, or put into an upright position **1** [I] to support oneself on the feet in an upright position: *I couldn't get a seat on the bus, so I had to stand. | Don't just stand there; help me! | Stand still while I do up your buttons.* —see also STAND **up** (1) **2** [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) rise to an upright position: *The children all stood (up) when the head teacher entered the hall. | He stood the little girl on the wall so that she could see.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to perform a particular action or take a particular position while standing: *We stood in a rough circle as she explained her plan. | The soldiers* **stood to attention.** | **Stand back** (=step backwards) *and let the doctor through.* | **Stand clear** *of the elevator doors, please.* ■ to be in, stay in, or get into a particular place or position **4** [I;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) rest in a position, esp. upright or on a base: *Few houses were left standing after the bombing raid. | The table stood in the corner. | He stood the clock on the shelf.* | (fig.) *These new findings* **stand** *the accepted scientific theory* **on its head.** (=show it to be completely untrue) **5** [I;L+*adj*] to remain unmoving or unused: *The car stood in the garage for weeks with no one to drive it. | Some of the machinery is* **standing idle.** (=not being used) | *houses standing empty* **6** [I] (of a liquid) to be still; not flow or be moved: *The water lay in standing pools. | Leave the mixture to stand overnight.* **7** [L+*n*] to put oneself in a particular position: *The dog* **stood guard** *over his master's belongings. | The police released him when his father* **stood bail/surety** *for him.* **8** [I] *AmE* (of a vehicle) to park for a short time for waiting, loading, etc. (used esp. on signs in the phrase **no standing**) ■ to be in, stay in, or get into a particular state or situation **9** [I+*adv/prep*] to be in, stay in, or get into a particular position or state: *Stand fast/firm* (=be determined) *— don't let them tell you what to do. | If we all stand together* (=remain united) *we'll get what we want. | My assistant isn't very good; I have to* **stand over him** (=watch him closely) *all the time to make sure he does the work.* | (fig.) *I didn't want to* **stand in her way** (=spoil her chances), *so I withdrew my application for the job. | Everyone in the company* **stands in awe of** *her.* (=admires

and/or fears her) [L+*v-ed*] *The company stands condemned at the bar of public opinion.* | *He* **stands accused of** (=is charged with) *plotting to overthrow the government.* **10** [I+*adv/prep*] to be in a particular situation or have a particular character: *How do things stand between you two at the moment?* | *As things stand at the moment* (=in the present situation) *I doubt if the company can agree to this request.* | *Where does the party stand on the issue of immigration?* (=what is its policy?) **11** [I+*adv/prep*] **a** to show a particular level or amount: *Inflation currently stands at nine per cent.* | *Your bank balance stands at £460.* **b** to have a rank or position in a range of values: *I know your son stands high in his opinion.* | *How does England's team stand in comparison to the other teams in Europe?* **12** [I+*to-v*] to be in a position to gain or lose: *If this new law is passed, we stand to lose our tax advantage.* **13** [I *not in progressive forms*] to remain true or in force; remain VALID: *Don't forget; my offer of help still stands.* | *The court of appeal ruled that the conviction should be allowed to stand.* ■ other meanings **14** [I+*adv/prep*; L+*n*] to be in height: *He stands 5 feet 10 inches.* | *The building stands over 200 feet high.* **15** [T *usu. in questions and negatives; not in progressive forms*] to accept successfully or without undesirable results; bear: *I can't stand whisky.* | *This work will hardly stand close examination.* | *Do you think she can stand the pace (of work) here?* | *I think the Prime Minister's decision will* **stand the test of time.** (=still be thought correct by people after some years) | *He wants to marry me but I can't* **stand the sight of** *him.* (=dislike him extremely) [+*v-ing*] *I can't stand seeing children smoking.* [+*obj+v-ing*] *I never could stand people telling me what to do.* | *(humor) I could stand another of those cream cakes!* —see also STAND **for** (2); see BEAR (USAGE) **16** [T+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] to pay the cost of (something) for (someone else); give as a TREAT[2] (2): *Let me stand you a drink/meal.* **17** [I **(for)**] *BrE* ‖ **run** *esp. AmE*— to compete for an office in an election; be a CANDIDATE: *She intends to stand for Parliament/for club president.* ■ fixed phrases **18 If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen** if you are not able to deal with the problems and pressures of your job, you should change your job; a phrase first used by the US president Harry S. Truman **19 know how/where one stands (with someone)** to know how someone feels about one: *She always says what she thinks, so you always know where you stand with her.* **20 stand a chance/hope** to have a chance/hope: *She stands a good chance of winning.* | *You don't stand a hope of getting the job!* **21 Stand and deliver!** (said in former times by armed robbers to travellers in carriages) Stop and give me your valuable possessions! **22 stand corrected** to admit that one's statements, opinions, etc., have been wrong: *You're quite right, it was Monday, not Tuesday; I stand corrected.* **23 standing on one's head** *infml* very easily; without any trouble or effort: *A genius like you can solve that problem standing on your head!* **24 stand on ceremony** to follow the formal rules of behaviour: *Do take your jacket off; we don't stand on ceremony in this house.* **25 stand one's ground: a** to refuse to be forced backwards **b** to refuse to accept defeat in an argument, claim, etc. **26 stand on one's dignity** *sometimes derog* to demand to be treated with proper respect **27 stand on one's hands/head** to support oneself on the hands/head and hands, with the feet in the air **28 stand on one's own (two) feet** *infml* to be able to live and provide what one needs without help from others **29 stand or fall by** to depend on completely for one's success: *This theatre gets no subsidies, so it stands or falls by the quality of its productions.* **30 stand pat** *AmE infml* to refuse to change: *She's standing pat on her decision not to allow flexible working hours.* **31 stand someone in good stead** to be of good use to someone when needed: *The experience you have gained here will stand you in good stead in later life.* **32 stand to reason** to be clear to all sensible people: *It stands to reason that she won't accept the job if we don't offer her a reasonable salary* **33 stand trial** to be tried in court: *He stood trial for murder.* —see also **make someone's hair stand on end** (HAIR), **leave someone standing** (LEAVE), **not have a leg to stand on** (LEG) ■ phrasal verbs

stand by *phr v* **1** [T] (**stand by** sbdy.) to remain loyal to, esp. in a difficult situation; support and not desert: *His parents were upset when he was arrested but stood by him.* **2** [T] (**stand by** sthg.) to remain faithful to (a promise, agreement, etc.); keep to: *I'll stand by my promise.* | *I stand by what I said earlier.* **3** [I] to remain inactive when action is needed: *We couldn't stand idly by while people starved.* | *How can you stand by and watch/and do nothing when she needs help?* **4** [I **(for)**] to wait and be ready for action if needed: *Stand by for trouble!* [+*to-v*] *A helicopter was standing by to get the president out if any trouble developed.* | *Stand by to receive a message.* —see also BYSTANDER, STANDBY

stand down *phr v* **1** [I] to give up one's position or chance of election: *I'm prepared to stand down in favour of a younger man.* —see also STEP **down** **2** [I] to leave the witness box in court: *Thank you, Mr Frost. You may stand down.* **3** [I;T (=**stand** sbdy. ↔ **down**)] *esp. BrE* **a** (of a soldier) to go off duty **b** to send (a soldier) off after a period of being on duty

stand for sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to be a sign or short form of; represent; mean: *"His name's James B Clarke." "What does the B stand for?"* **2** [*usu. in questions and negatives*] to allow to continue; accept without complaining: *I wouldn't stand for that sort of treatment if I were you.* [+*v-ing*] *I won't stand for being treated like a child.* —see also STAND[1] (15) **3** to have as a set of aims or principles; support: *Before we vote for him, we want to know what he stands for.*

stand in *phr v* [I **(for)**] to take the place of the usual person for a time: *I'm standing in for the regular man while he's on holiday.* —see also STAND-IN

stand out *phr v* [I] **1** to have an easily-seen shape, colour, etc.; be very noticeable: *The new road sign is easy to read; the words stand out well.* | (fig.) *Didn't you realize she was interested in you? I should have thought it* **stood out a mile!** (=was very clear) **2** [**(from, among)**] to be much better or the best: *Among mystery writers, Agatha Christie stands out as a real master.* —see also OUTSTANDING **3** [**(against)**] to be firm in opposition: *I'm standing out against his idea.*

stand to *phr v* [I;T (=**stand** sbdy. **to**)] *tech, esp. BrE* **a** (of a soldier) to take up a position ready for action **b** to order (a soldier) to stand to

stand up *phr v* **1** [I *usu. in progressive forms*] to STAND[1] (1): *I've been standing up all day; it'll be a relief to sit down.* | *Stand up straight, boy; don't slouch!* —see also STAND[1] (2) **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to stay in good condition after testing or hard use; wear or last well: *It's a robust little car that will stand up (well) to a lot of rough handling.* **3** [I] to be accepted as true or proven: *The charges you've made would never stand up in court.* **4** [T] (**stand** sbdy. ↔ **up**) *infml* to fail to meet (someone, esp. of the opposite sex) as arranged: *Where is my boyfriend? If he's stood me up I'll never speak to him again!* **5** *infml* **stand up and be counted** to make one's opinions known, esp. when it is dangerous or not to one's advantage to do so —see also STAND-UP

stand up for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to defend against attack; support: *She stood up for me/my proposals during the discussion.* | *You must stand up for your rights!*

stand up to sbdy. *phr v* [T] to refuse to accept unjust unfavourable treatment of oneself by (someone): *Don't let her say things like that about your work – you should stand up to her a bit more.*

stand[2] *n* **1** a small often outdoor shop or place for showing things; STALL[1] (1): *an ice-cream stand* | *Come and find out more about the new car at our company's stand at the exhibition.* —see also NEWSSTAND **2** (*often in comb.*) a frame, desk, base, or other piece of furniture for putting something on: *a hatstand* | *an umbrella stand* **3** also **stands** *pl*— an open-fronted building at a sports ground with rows of seats or standing spaces rising behind each other —see also GRANDSTAND **4** a strong effort of defence or opposition: *In February 1916 the French Army made a stand at Verdun.* | *The local people mounted a determined stand against the closure of the school.* **5** (in cricket) a period of two batsmen (BATSMAN) being in together, esp. one that lasts a long time in which there are many runs **6** [**(on)**] a firm publicly-stated position or opinion: *If he wants my vote he'll have to* **take a stand** *on the question of East-West relations.* **7** a place where taxis wait to be hired **8** *AmE for* WITNESS BOX: *Will the next witness please* **take the stand?** —see also ONE-NIGHT STAND

stan·dard[1] /ˈstændəd‖-ərd/ *n* **1** [*often pl.*] **a** a level or degree of quality that is considered proper or acceptable: *We work to a high standard of precision.* | *This teacher sets high standards for his pupils.* | *Your recent work has been*

below standard/*hasn't been* **up to standard.** (=has been below an acceptable level) | *the airline's rigorous safety standards* | *The hotel offers the highest standards of comfort and service.* | *I don't think all this bad language on TV should be allowed; there are certain standards* (=of morals) *that should be kept up.* **b** an accepted measure or level used for purposes of comparison: *In India this is a high salary, though by European standards it is quite low.* **2** something fixed as a rule for measuring weight, value, purity, etc.: *The government has an official standard for the purity of silver.* —see also GOLD STANDARD **3** a ceremonial flag: *the royal standard* **4** a pole with an image or shape at the top formerly carried at the front of an army: *the standard of the Roman legions* **5 a** something that is established, familiar, or widely used: *This business computer has become a standard.* **b** a popular song that has become well established and is sung by many singers

standard[2] *adj* **1** of the usual or regularly used kind; not rare or special: *These nails come in three standard sizes.* | *Searching handluggage at airports is now standard practice|procedure.* | *the standard rate of income tax* (=the rate paid by most people) **2** [A] generally recognized as correct or acceptable: *It's one of the standard books on the subject.* | *standard spelling|pronunciation* | *standard English* (=as used by educated speakers) —see also NONSTANDARD, SUBSTANDARD

Standard see EVENING STANDARD

standard-bear·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* **1** (in former times) a soldier who carried the STANDARD[1] (4) at the front of an army **2** an important leader in a moral argument or movement: *one of the standard-bearers of the anti-nuclear movement*

stan·dard·i·za·tion /ˌstændədaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-dərdə-/ *n* [U] **1** the making of standard parts which can be used in many different machines, operations, etc. **2** the setting of levels of quality for articles, as done by the **BSI**

stan·dard·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈstændədaɪz‖-ər-/ *v* [T] to cause to fit a single standard; make to be alike in every case: *Efforts to standardize English spellings have not been completely successful.* | *All their cars are produced using standardized parts.*

standard lamp /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **floor lamp** *AmE*– *n* a lamp on a tall base which stands on the floor of a room —see pictures at LIGHT and at LIVING ROOM

standard of liv·ing /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ also **living standard**– *n* the degree of wealth and comfort in everyday life that a person, group, country, etc. has: *This nation has a low|enjoys a high standard of living.* —compare COST OF LIVING

Standard Oil /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a large American oil company begun in the 19th century by John D. Rockefeller. It was broken up into smaller companies in 1911 when it was found to be controlling the oil industry in the US. Some of these smaller companies are still called Standard Oil.

standard time /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the time to which all clocks in a particular area of the world are set

stand·by /ˈstændbaɪ/ *n* **-bys** **1** a person or thing that is kept ready to be used: *Powdered milk is a good standby in an emergency.* | *If the electricity fails, the hospital has a standby generator.* **2 on standby: a** ready to be called into action at any time: *A special team of police were kept on standby during the crisis period.* **b** able to travel, esp. on a plane, only if there is a seat that no one else wants: *passengers on standby* | *a standby ticket* —see also STAND **by**

stand-in /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a person who takes the part of an actor at certain unimportant or dangerous moments in a film —see also STUNT MAN **2** a person who takes the place or job of someone else for a time —see also STAND **in**

stand·ing[1] /ˈstændɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** continuing in use or in force; PERMANENT: *I've got a standing order for two pints of milk a day.* | *We have a* **standing invitation;** *we can visit them whenever we like.* | *His meanness has become something of a* **standing joke.** | *Before the days of* **standing armies** *there were only small local forces in peacetime.* —see also STANDING ORDER **2** done from a standing position: *The runners set off from a* **standing start.** | *The audience loved her and gave her a* **standing ovation** *at the end of the performance.*

standing[2] *n* [U] **1** rank or position, esp. based on the opinion of other people; position in a system, organization, or list: *a lawyer of high standing* | *He's a man of some standing* (=much respected and of high rank) *in the community.* | *The scandal has damaged the company's standing in the eyes of the public.* **2** time during which something has remained in existence; DURATION: *an agreement of several years' standing* | *Her opposition to the plan is* **of long standing.** (=She has been against the plan for a long time.) —see also LONG-STANDING

standing com·mit·tee /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n* **1** a committee of members of the British parliament which considers possible changes to a BILL[1] (2) (=suggested new law) after its SECOND READING in the House of Commons **2** a committee in the US Congress which has responsibility for examining BILLS: *Ways and Means is a standing committee concerned with issues of tax, budgets, etc.* —compare SELECT COMMITTEE

standing joke /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a joke or humorous subject that is so well-known to a group of people that they laugh whenever it is mentioned: *My spelling mistakes are a standing joke in our office.*

standing or·der /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **banker's order**– *n* [C;U] *BrE* an order to a bank to pay a fixed amount from an account to a named person or organization at a regular time each month, year, etc.: *I pay my insurance premiums by standing order.* —compare DIRECT DEBIT

standing room /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] space for standing in a theatre, sports ground, etc., usu. sold after all seats have been filled: *I'm afraid there's* **standing room only.**

standing stone /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a large stone which is set upright in the ground, often as part of a pattern such as a circle or a line.

►CULTURAL NOTE The most famous standing stones are those at Stonehenge in England and Carnac in France. People do not know why these stones were set upright and arranged in patterns or exactly when it was done, but some people think the arrangements may have once been used to study the sun and moon or for religious purposes.◄

stand·off half /ˈstændɒf ˌhɑːf ‖ -ɔːf ˌhæf/ *n* a FLY HALF

stand·off·ish /stændˈɒfɪʃ‖-ˈɔːfɪʃ/ *adj infml* rather unfriendly; coldly formal —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

stand·pipe /ˈstændpaɪp/ *n* a pipe connected directly to a water supply and providing water to a central or public place

stand·point /ˈstændpɔɪnt/ *n* a position from which things are seen and opinions are formed; POINT OF VIEW: *Let's look at this from an historical standpoint|from the standpoint of the ordinary voter.*

St An·drews /sənt ˈændruːz‖seɪnt-/ a city in E Scotland known esp. for its university and its GOLF courses

stand·still /ˈstændˌstɪl/ *n* [S] a condition of no movement or activity; stop: *She brought the car to a standstill.* | *Work was at a standstill.*

stand-up /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] **1** done or for use by people standing up: *a stand-up meal* **2** (of COMEDY or its performer) depending on telling jokes rather than on acting: *a stand-up comedian* **3** (of a collar) made to stand stiffly up without folding

Stan·ford /ˈstænfəd‖-fərd/ an American university in California, S of San Francisco

►CULTURAL NOTE Stanford is a highly respected LIBERAL university. In the 1980s and 90s it began teaching literature by women, minorities (MINORITY), and by people from other cultures in its literature courses. This upset some people, who worried that important works of Western civilization, such as those by Plato and Shakespeare, would not be taught in order to find time to teach these other works.◄

Stan·i·slav·sky /ˌstænɪˈslævski‖-ˈslɑːv-/, **Con·stan·tin** /ˈkɒnstəntiːn‖ˈkɑːn-/ (1863–1938) a Russian actor and theatre director known esp. for his METHOD of training actors to draw upon their inner emotions which was later developed in the US

stank /stæŋk/ *past tense of* STINK

Stanley, Port see PORT STANLEY

Stan·ley /ˈstænli/, **Sir Henry Morton** (1841–1904) a Welsh EXPLORER and newspaper reporter. In 1871, he was sent by an American newspaper to find David Livingstone in Africa where he delivered his famous greeting, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

Stanley Cup /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a prize given to the winner of the National Hockey League, which is made up of ICE HOCKEY teams from Canada and the US

Stan·sted /ˈstænsted/ an airport which is 30 miles NE of London, in Essex

stan·za /ˈstænzə/ *n* a group of lines in a repeating pattern forming a division of a poem: *the third stanza*

staph·y·lo·coc·cus /ˌstæfɨləʊˈkɒkəs‖-ˈkɑːk-/ *n* **-ci** /kaɪ/ a bacterium that causes infection of wounds, esp. in hospitals

sta·ple[1] /ˈsteɪpəl/ *n* **1** a small piece of thin wire with two square corners which is driven into sheets of paper, etc., and bent over on the other side to hold them together —see also STAPLER **2** a small U-shaped piece of strong wire with pointed ends which is hammered in to hold something in place

staple[2] *v* [T] to fasten with staples: *He stapled the papers together.*

staple[3] *adj* [A] **1** forming the main part; BASIC: *Oil is Nigeria's staple export.* | *These people live on a* **staple diet** *of rice and vegetables.* | (fig.) *television's staple diet of soap operas and quiz shows* **2** used all the time; usual: *He came out with his staple excuse, which was that he was too busy.*

staple[4] *n* [*usu. pl.*] **1** a food that is used and needed in the house all the time: *Don't forget staples like sugar and salt when you go to the shops.* **2** *tech* a main product that is produced or sold: *Bananas and sugar are the staples of Jamaica.*

sta·pler /ˈsteɪplər/ *n* a usu. small hand tool for driving staples into paper

star[1] /stɑːr/ *n* **1** [C] a very large mass of burning gas in space, esp. one that can be seen as a small bright point of light in a clear sky at night: *When it is dark, the stars come out.* (=can be seen) | *a science-fiction film about travelling to distant stars* | *Our sun is a star.* | *stars twinkling in the heavens* —see also FALLING STAR, FIXED STAR, SHOOTING STAR, STARRY **2** [C] **a** a shape with five or more points that is supposed to represent a star **b** a piece of metal in this shape for wearing as a mark of office, rank, honour, etc.: *a four-star general* **c** a sign in this shape used with numbers usu. from one to five in various systems, to judge standards or quality. In Britain, stars are given to good hotels, from one star, which is the cheapest, up to five stars, which is the most comfortable and most expensive: *The guidebook awards this hotel three stars.* **d** an ASTERISK **3** [C] **a** a famous or very skilful performer: *She wanted to be a Hollywood (film) star.* | *a young actress with star quality* | *a football star* **b** the main performer in a film, play, etc. —see also ALL-STAR, CO-STAR, SUPERSTAR **4** [C *usu. pl.*] a PLANET or sign of the ZODIAC regarded as deciding one's fate: *She was born under an unlucky star.* | *He always reads the "What Your Stars Foretell" column in the daily paper.* **5** [S] *fml or lit* a person's fame or chance of getting it: *Her star seems very much in the ascendant.* (=she is becoming successful) | *His* **star has set/is on the wane** *and people have begun to forget him.* —see also STARRY-EYED, **reach for the stars** (REACH), **see stars** (SEE[1]), **thank one's lucky stars** (THANK) **6 star in the East** the star which, according to the Bible, appeared in the sky when Jesus was born, to show the way to the place of his birth —~**less** *adj*

star[2] *v* **-rr-** **1** [T] to have as a main performer; FEATURE: *Tonight we're showing the film "Limelight", starring Charlie Chaplin.* **2** [I **(in)**] to appear as a main performer: *Humphrey Bogart starred in a lot of very good films.* | *She has a starring role in a new TV show.* **3** [T] to mark with one or more stars (ASTERISKS): *In the list the starred questions are the most difficult.*

star·board /ˈstɑːbəd‖ˈstɑːrbərd/ *n* [U] the right side of a ship or aircraft as one faces forward —compare PORT[2]

starch[1] /stɑːtʃ‖stɑːrtʃ/ *n* **1** [U] a white tasteless substance forming an important part of foods such as grain, rice, beans, and potatoes **2** [C;U] (a) food containing this: *You're getting too fat; you should avoid sugars and starches.* **3** [U] a product made from this, usu. in powder form, for stiffening cloth

starch[2] *v* [T] to stiffen with STARCH[1] (3): *starched tablecloths/collars*

star cham·ber /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n sometimes derog* (*often caps.*) **1** a court or similar body that deals with cases in secret and gives severe judgments **2** (in Britain) a group of ministers who decide how much money a government department will be allowed to spend if that department cannot reach agreement with the Treasury

starch·y /ˈstɑːtʃi‖ˈstɑːr-/ *adj* **1** like or full of starch: *starchy foods* **2** *infml* stiffly correct and formal in one's manner; STUFFY (2) —**-ily** *adv*

star-crossed lov·ers /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [P] *lit* unlucky lovers who are unable to be together because of particular events or situations. The most famous star-crossed lovers are Romeo and Juliet. —see ROMEO AND JULIET

star·dom /ˈstɑːdəm‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* [U] the state of being a very famous performer: *After her amazing performance in the film she shot to stardom.*

star·dust /ˈstɑːdʌst‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* [U] *lit* an imaginary substance consisting of shiny dust that has magical qualities

stare[1] /steər/ *v* [I] **1** [**(at)**] to look steadily for a long time, e.g. in great surprise or shock: *He sat staring into space, thinking deeply.* | *She stared at the letter in disbelief.* **2** [+*adv*/*prep*] to be very plain to see: *The lies in the report were so obvious; they stared out at us from every paragraph.* **3 stare someone in the face: a** to be very easily seen; be too clear to miss: *I'd spent ages looking for the key, and there it was staring me in the face all the time.* | (fig.) *The solution is staring us in the face* (=is very clear); *we must borrow from the bank.* **b** (of something bad) to be about to happen to someone: *At 2-0 down with a minute to go, defeat was staring us in the face.* —see GAZE (USAGE)

stare sbdy. ↔ **out** *BrE* ‖ **stare** sbdy. ↔ **down** *AmE*— *phr v* [T] to force to look away under the power of a long steady look

stare[2] *n* an act or way of staring; long steady look: *a beautiful girl who always gets admiring stares from men* | *a disbelieving/incredulous stare*

star·fish /ˈstɑːˌfɪʃ‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* **-fish** *or* **-fishes** a flat sea animal with five arms forming a star shape and a mouth and rows of tube feet on the lower surface —see picture at SEA

star·gaz·er /ˈstɑːˌgeɪzər‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* **1** *often humor* **a** someone who practises ASTRONOMY **b** an ASTROLOGER **2** someone who spends time thinking about impractical ideas instead of giving attention to their present activities —**-ing** *n* [U]

stark[1] /stɑːk‖stɑːrk/ *adj* **1** hard, bare, or severe in appearance, without any pleasant or decorative additions: *The stark jagged rocks were silhouetted against the sky.* | (fig.) *The film vividly shows the stark realities of life for the poor and hungry.* **2** [A] complete; UTTER: *The dead man's eyes were wide open with a look of stark terror.* | *His actions were in* **stark contrast** *to his words.* —~**ly** *adv*

stark[2] *adv* **1 stark naked** *infml* without any clothes; completely NAKED **2 stark raving/staring mad** *humor* completely mad

Stark, Dame Frey·a /ˈfreɪə/ (1893–1993) an English traveller and writer known for her books about her travels in the Middle East

stark·ers /ˈstɑːkəz‖ˈstɑːrkərz/ *adj* [F] *BrE humor sl* NAKED (1)

star·let /ˈstɑːlɨt‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* a young actress who plays small parts in films, hoping to become famous

star·light /ˈstɑːlaɪt‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* [U] the light given by the stars, often considered to be ROMANTIC: *a walk in the starlight*

star·ling /ˈstɑːlɪŋ‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* a very common usu. greenish-black European bird

star·lit /ˈstɑːˌlɪt‖ˈstɑːr-/ *adj esp. lit* lighted by the stars; bright with many stars: *a starlit night*

Star of Beth·le·hem /ˌ· · ˈ···/ [*the*] the star which, in the Bible, appeared in the sky when Jesus was born, to show the way to the place of his birth

Star of Da·vid /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] a star with six points which represents Judaism and the state of Israel. In Nazi Germany, Jews were forced to wear this sign so that everyone could see that they were Jews.

Starr /stɑːr/, **Rin·go** /ˈrɪŋgəʊ/ (1940–) an English musician who was the drummer in the popular British rock group, the BEATLES, during the 1960s until they split up in 1970

star·ry /ˈstɑːri/ *adj* filled with stars: *a starry winter sky*

starry-eyed /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* (appearing very happy because) full of unreasonable or silly hopes: *a starry-eyed optimist*

Stars and Bars /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] *AmE* the CONFEDERATE[1] flag

Stars and Stripes /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] *AmE* the flag of the US —see picture at FLAG

Star·ship En·ter·prise /ˌstɑːʃɪp ˈentəpraɪz‖ˌstɑːr-, -tər-/ [*the*] the space ship in the SCIENCE FICTION television programme *Star Trek* —see STAR TREK

star sign /ˈ· ·/ *n* any of the 12 divisions of the year represented by groups of stars: *What is your star sign?*

Star·sky and Hutch /ˌstɑːski ənd ˈhʌtʃ‖ˌstɑːr-/ an American television programme of the 1970s, also shown in Britain, about two policemen, played by David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser

Star-Span·gled Ban·ner /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] **1** the NATIONAL ANTHEM (=national song) of the US **2** *AmE pomp* the flag of the US

star-stud·ded /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj infml* filled with famous performers: *a star-studded cast*

start[1] /stɑːt‖stɑːrt/ *v* **1** [I;T (OFF, **with**)] to (cause to) go into a state of (movement, operation, or activity); begin: *Has the meeting started yet? | We'll start (the meal) (off) with onion soup. | I started my journey at dawn. | We start work at 8.30 every morning. | Let's start (the meeting) by electing a chairman. | All our machinery was lost in the fire so we had to* **start from scratch.** (=start again from the beginning) [+*to-v*|*v-ing*] *It's started to rain|started raining. | I started to learn French|started learning French when I was ten.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *The slightest bit of dust starts me (off) sneezing.* **2** [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) come into existence: *How did the trouble start? | Who started that rumour? | I'm trying to start up a swimming club. | We're thinking of* **starting a family.** (=having our first baby) **3** [I (UP);T] to (cause to) begin operation: *The car won't start.* (=its engine cannot be made to work) | *The clock keeps stopping and starting; I wonder what's wrong with it. | I can't get the fire started.* (=it cannot be made to burn) **4** [I (IN, **on**)] to begin doing a job or a piece of work: *In this office we start at 9.00 in the morning. | You're hired; when can you start? | Will I have time to start (in) on digging the garden tonight?* **5** [I (OFF, OUT, **for**)] to begin a journey: *It's a long trip; we'll have to start (out|off) early and start back for home in the afternoon.* **6** [I+*adv*|*prep*, esp. **at, from**] to go from a particular point; have a beginning or lower limit: *Prices start at £5. | The train starts from London. | Starting from next week, all employees will receive a 10% pay increase.* **7** [T] to begin using: *We've finished this bottle of wine; shall we start a new one? | Start each page on the second line.* **8** [L (OFF, OUT)] to begin one's life, a course of action, etc., by being: *He started out poor|a poor office boy, and now he's a millionaire! | If you want to be a champion swimmer you've got to start young.* **9** [I] to take part in a match or competition from the beginning: *The horse went lame and was unable to start.* **10** [I] *infml* to begin to be annoying, by arguing, asking for things, etc.: *Oh, don't you start again!* **11** [I (**at**)] to make a quick uncontrolled movement, esp. from sudden surprise: *She started at the noise. | The touch on his shoulder made him start.* **12** [I+*adv*|*prep*] *esp. lit* to move suddenly and violently from rest: *He started angrily to his feet. | Blood started from the wound.* **13 start (all) over again** also **start over** *esp. AmE*— to begin again as before or as at the beginning **14 start something** *infml* to make trouble; start a fight: *Are you trying to start something?* **15 to start with: a** at the beginning: *I was a bit nervous to start with, but I soon got used to it.* **b** also **for a start**— (used before the first in a list of facts, reasons, etc.): *It won't work: to start with, it would take too long, and secondly it would cost too much.*

▷ USAGE 1 You can **start/begin** *to do* something or you can **start/begin** *doing* something, but the "doing" form is less common with **begin.** You cannot use the "doing" form when the first verb is in the *-ing* form: *I'm* **beginning/starting** *to cook the dinner,* or when the second verb deals with feelings or the mind: *She* **started/began** *to understand.* 2 **Begin** cannot be used instead of **start** before **off, up, out, back,** or in the meanings **a** (of a machine) to (cause to) start working: *The car won't* **start, b** to start in a match or competition, **c** to make a surprised or sudden movement. 3 **Commence** is used like **begin,** not **start,** and is very formal.◁

start[2] *n* **1** [C] a beginning of activity or development: *The start of the race had to be delayed. | The play* **got off to a bad start** *when one of the actors forgot his opening lines.| a good education that gave her the best possible* **start in life** | *It's getting late; we'd better* **make a start on** *the cooking.* (=begin to do it) | *The whole holiday was really enjoyable,* **from start to finish.** **2** [*the*+S] the first part or moments: *The start of the film was rather dull.* **3** [C] a place of starting: *The runners lined up at the start.* **4** [C;U (**on, over**)] the amount by which one person is ahead of another: *The thieves have a three-hour start on us so their track will be hard to follow.* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] a sudden uncontrolled movement, esp. of surprise: *I woke up from the bad dream with a start.* **6 for a start** see START[1] (15b) —see also FALSE START, FLYING START, HEAD START

START /stɑːt‖stɑːrt/ see STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TALKS

start·er /ˈstɑːtəʳ‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n* **1** a person, horse, car, etc., in a race or match at the start: *Of eight starters, only three finished the race.* **2** a person who gives the signal for a race to begin: *The starter fired his starting gun. | The horses are now* **under starter's orders.** (=will soon begin to race) **3** an instrument for starting a machine, esp. an electric motor (**starter motor**) for starting a petrol engine —see picture at ENGINE **4** *infml, esp. BrE* the first part of a meal: *Would you like soup or melon as a starter?* **5 for starters** *infml* first of all; as a beginning —compare BEGINNER; see also NONSTARTER, SELF-STARTER

starter home /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a small house or flat which does not cost very much to buy and is usu. bought by a young person or man and woman buying their first home: *We need to develop more low cost starter homes to help the younger generation gain a footing on the property ladder.*

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, more than half the population own their homes and it is common for people to buy and sell several homes in their lifetime.◄

starting block /ˈ·· ·/ *n* either of a pair of blocks fixed to the ground against which a runner's feet push off at the start of a race

starting gate /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a gate or set of gates which opens to start a horse, dog, or SKI race

starting price /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the last PRICE[1] (2) (=return for money risked) offered just before a horse or dog race begins

start·le /ˈstɑːtl‖ˈstɑːrtl/ *v* [T] to cause (someone) to be suddenly surprised, sometimes making them jump; give an unexpected slight shock to: *You startled me! I didn't hear you come in. | a startling revelation|piece of news | She gave a startled jump. | We were startled by the news|startled to hear they were getting divorced.* —**lingly** *adv*: *startlingly pale*

Start·rite /ˈstɑːtraɪt ‖ ˈstɑːr-/ a British company which makes good quality shoes, esp. for children

Star Trek /ˈ· ˌ·/ a popular American SCIENCE FICTION television programme of the 1960s about the adventures of a space vehicle, the **Starship Enterprise**, and the characters on the space vehicle. There are also several Star Trek films. —see also Captain Jim KIRK, SCOTTY, Mr SPOCK, TREKKIE; see also **beam me up, Scotty** (BEAM[3]), **to boldly go where no man has gone before** (BOLDLY)

start-up /ˈ· ·/ *adj AmE* of the money needed to begin a new business: *high start-up costs*

starv·a·tion /stɑːˈveɪʃən‖stɑːr-/ *n* [U] suffering or death from lack of food: *dying of starvation* | (*infml*) *I'm on a starvation diet.* (=eating very little food in order to become thinner)

starvation wag·es /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [P] wages that are not enough to pay for the things necessary for life

starve /stɑːv‖stɑːrv/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) suffer or die from great hunger: *Thousands of people could starve if the crops fail again. | They got lost in the desert and starved to death. | I'd rather starve than work for that company! | starving children in the famine area* | (*infml*) *What's for lunch? I'm starving! (BrE)|I'm starved! (AmE)* (=very hungry) **2** [(**of**)] to (cause to) suffer from not having some stated thing: *The teachers said the schools were being starved of resources. | neglected children who are starved of affection*

starve·ling /ˈstɑːvlɪŋ‖ˈstɑːr-/ *n lit* a person or animal that is thin and unhealthy from lack of food

star wars /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *infml* see STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

Star Wars a popular SCIENCE FICTION film of the 1970s about the battle between the HERO, Luke Skywalker, and Darth Vader, an evil person who wears a black MASK over his face and comes from an evil EMPIRE. The film was directed by George Lucas and is remembered for its

many new and exciting SPECIAL EFFECTS. —see colour picture on page 685

stash[1] /stæʃ/ *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *infml* to store secretly; hide: *He keeps his money stashed (away) under the bed.*

stash[2] *n* [(**of**)] *infml* a secret store: *a stash of drugs*

Sta·si /ˈstɑːzi/ [*the*] the popular name for the State Security Police in East Germany until 1989. They were known for secretly watching people and telling the government what ordinary citizens were doing.

state[1] /steɪt/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a condition in which a person or thing is; a particular way of being, feeling, or thinking considered with regard to its most important or noticeable quality: *Water can exist in three states: a liquid state, a gaseous state* (=steam), *and a solid one.* (=ice) | *I'm very concerned about the state of her health.* | *The survivors of the fire are still in a state of shock.* | *He seems to be in a rather confused* **state of mind.** | *A state of war now exists between the two countries.* | *The house we're buying is in a very good* **state of repair.** | *the deteriorating state of the country's roads* | *an embarrassing* **state of affairs** (=situation) **2** [(*the*) U] (*often cap.*) the government or political organization of a country: *Should industry be controlled by the state?* | *The ministers were discussing important* **matters of state.** | *What is the proper relationship between Church and State?* | *state-owned railways* | *state secrets* —see also POLICE STATE, WELFARE STATE **3** [C] a country considered as a political organization: *Most former colonies have now become self-governing states.* | *France is one of the member states of the EEC.* —see RACE (USAGE) **4** [C] (*often cap.*) any of the smaller partly self-governing areas making up certain nations: *the 50 states of the US* | *Queensland is one of the states of Australia.* | *the state elections in California* **5** [U] the grandness and ceremony connected with governments and rulers: *The Queen drove to the palace in state.* | *The President paid a* **state visit** *to Britain.* | *The opening of Parliament is one of the great* **state occasions.** —see also **lie in state** (LIE[1]); **6** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* a very nervous, anxious, or excited condition: *She let herself get* **in/into a state** *before the exams.*

state[2] *v* [T] **1** to say, express, or put into words, esp. formally: *State your name and address.* | *This book states the case for women's rights very clearly.* [+(*that*)] *The witness stated that he had not seen the woman before.* [+*wh*-] *Please state whether you are married or single.* **2** to mention exactly, esp. before or in advance; SPECIFY: *Theatre tickets must be used on the stated date.*

state at·tor·ney /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* see STATE'S ATTORNEY

state ben·e·fits /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [P] (in Britain) money given by the government to people who are poor, without a job, ill, etc. —see also CHILD BENEFIT, HOUSING BENEFIT, SICKNESS BENEFIT, UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

state court /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a court in the US which hears cases that have to do with state laws or a state's CONSTITUTION —see also extra information on page 742

state·craft /ˈsteɪtkrɑːft‖-kræft/ *n* [U] the art of government; the skill of being a STATESMAN

State De·part·ment /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ [*the*] the American government department which deals with foreign affairs —compare FCO

State En·rolled Nurse /ˌ· ·ˌ· ˈ·/ (*abbrev.* **SEN**) *n* a nurse who has passed a certain examination of the General Nursing Council of England and Wales or of Scotland — see also STATE REGISTERED NURSE

state·hood /ˈsteɪthʊd/ *n* [U] the condition of being **a** an independent nation **b** any of the states making up a nation such as the US

state·house /ˈsteɪthaʊs/ [*the*] the CAPITOL building of a US state

state·less /ˈsteɪtləs/ *adj* having no citizenship; not officially belonging to any country: *stateless refugees* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

state·ly /ˈsteɪtli/ *adj* **1** formal; ceremonious: *The procession moved at a slow and stately speed.* **2** grand in style or size; NOBLE[1] (2): *a row of tall stately columns* —**liness** *n* [U]

stately home /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a large country house, usu. of historical interest and containing fine works of art, esp. one which people pay to visit —compare COUNTRY HOUSE, PALACE (2)

state·ment /ˈsteɪtmənt/ *n* **1** [C] something that is stated; a written or spoken declaration, esp. of a formal kind: *The police took down the witness's statement.* | *a signed|sworn statement* | *The punishment for making false statements to the tax authorities can be severe.* [+*that*] *His statement that he had nothing to do with the affair was greeted with some scepticism.* | *The police have issued a statement urging the public to cooperate in this inquiry.* **2** [C] a list showing amounts of money paid, received, owing, etc., and their total: *I get a* **bank statement** *every month.* **3** [U] *fml* expression in words: *The details of the agreement need more exact statement.*

Stat·en Is·land /ˈstætn ˌaɪlənd/ an island in the US which is one of the five BOROUGHS of New York City. A boat called the **Staten Island ferry** takes passengers between Manhattan and Staten Island.

state of e·mer·gen·cy /ˌ· · ·ˈ···/ *n* a state declared officially by a government in the event of a dangerous situation, e.g. caused by a natural happening such as a severe storm or flood or by political protests. Once a state of emergency has been declared, a government can act quickly and sometimes in a way which would not usu. be allowed: *After the hurricane, the President declared a state of emergency.*

state-of-the-art /ˌ· · · ˈ·◂/ *adj* using the most modern and recently-developed methods, materials, or knowledge: *state-of-the-art technology*

State of the U·nion ad·dress /ˌ· · · ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ [*the*] a speech given in January each year by the President of the US to Congress and the nation, which gives his view of the economic condition of the US and his plans for the future

State O·pen·ing of Par·lia·ment /ˌ· ˌ··· · ˈ···/ [*the*] the occasion each year when the Queen officially opens the British parliament after its summer break and makes a speech saying what the government plans to do —see colour picture on page 950

state park /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a usu. large park owned by a US state, often in a beautiful area

State Re·gis·tered Nurse /ˌ· ˌ··· ˈ·/ (*abbrev.* **SRN**) *n* (in Britain) a nurse who is fully qualified (QUALIFY) —see also STATE ENROLLED NURSE, REGISTERED GENERAL NURSE

state·room /ˈsteɪtrʊm, -ruːm/ *n* a passenger's private room, esp. a large and comfortable one, on a ship

States /steɪts/ [*the*] *infml* the US

state's at·tor·ney /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ also **state attorney**— *n AmE* the lawyer who represents the state in court cases: *He spent three years as assistant state's attorney for Cook County.*

state school /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a British school which receives money from the government and provides free education

►CULTURAL NOTE Most British children attend state schools at all levels from the age of 5 to the age of 16 or 18. These are usu. called PRIMARY SCHOOL (often divided into INFANT and JUNIOR) and SECONDARY SCHOOL. There are also some state NURSERY SCHOOLS for children under 5. — compare PUBLIC SCHOOL◄

state's ev·i·dence /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n AmE for* QUEEN'S EVIDENCE

state·side /ˈsteɪtsaɪd/ *adj, adv AmE infml* of, in, or towards the US

states·man /ˈsteɪtsmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *usu. apprec* a political or government leader, esp. one who is respected as being wise, honourable, and fair-minded —see also ELDER STATESMAN — ~**like** *adj* — ~**ship** *n* [U]

states' rights /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [P] a principle based on the tenth AMENDMENT to the CONSTITUTION of the US which says that if a particular power is not given to a particular state or forbidden to a state by the constitution, that power belongs to the particular state and not to the US government. There have been many disagreements about this in US history. It was used as an argument in support of Southern states which allowed SLAVERY before the CIVIL WAR and in the 20th century by Southern opponents of the US government's CIVIL RIGHTS programmes.

state su·preme court /ˌ· ·ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* (in the US) the highest, most important court in a state —see also extra information on page 742

state tax /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in the US) an amount of money which must be paid to the state

state troop·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n AmE* a member of a police force which operates everywhere in a state

state u·ni·ver·si·ty /ˈ· ··ˌ···/ *n AmE* a university which

receives money from a state to help pay its costs: *The state universities in California are well-respected.*

stat·ic[1] /ˈstætɪk/ *adj* **1** not moving, changing, or developing, esp. in a way that is undesirable: *Prices on the stock market are rather static at the moment.* | *The characters in his novels seem rather static.* —compare DYNAMIC (1) **2** [A *no comp.*] *tech* of or being electricity not flowing in a current, but collecting on the surface of objects: *Some people get static electricity in their hair.*

static[2] *n* [U] noise or other effects caused by electricity in the air and blocking or spoiling regular radio or TV signals

stat·ics /ˈstætɪks/ *n* [U] the science dealing with the forces that produce balance in objects that are not moving – compare DYNAMICS

sta·tion[1] /ˈsteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] **a** (the building or buildings at) a place where the stated public vehicles regularly stop so that passengers can get on and off, goods can be loaded etc.: *a bus|coach station* | *a tube|subway station* | *(AmE) a train station* **b** *esp. BrE* also **railway station** *fml*– a place like this where trains regularly stop: *I drove her to the station and saw her off in the train.* | *We left from Victoria Station.* | *The station waiting room* **2** [C] a building that is a centre for the usu. stated kind of service or activity: *a biological research station* | *a lifeboat station* | *I'd like you to come down to the station* (=police station) *and answer a few questions please, sir.* | *a petrol station* | *a polling station* (=where people vote in an election) **3** [C] an organization that broadcasts on television or radio: *I can't get|pick up* (=hear) *many foreign stations on this little radio.* | *This programme's boring – what's on the other station?* **4** [C] a usu. small military establishment: *a naval station* **5** [C] a large sheep or cattle farm in Australia or New Zealand **6** [C] *old-fash* one's position in life; social rank: *She married* **beneath her station.** (=married someone of a lower social class) **7** [U] *tech* (esp. of a warship) position in relation to others in a group —see also ACTION STATIONS, COMFORT STATION, SPACE STATION

station[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*; *often pass.*] to put (esp. a person) into a certain place for esp. military duty: *Guards were stationed round the prison.* | *During most of my time in the army I was stationed in Germany.* | *Police officers had stationed themselves at all the entrances to the building.*

sta·tion·a·ry /ˈsteɪʃənəri‖-neri/ *adj* standing still; not moving: *A stationary target is easiest to aim at.* | *How did you manage to drive into a stationary vehicle?*

station break /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE* a pause during a radio or television broadcast for local stations to give their names

sta·tion·er /ˈsteɪʃənəʳ/ *n* a person in charge of a shop that sells stationery: *I bought some pencils at the stationer's (shop).*

sta·tion·er·y /ˈsteɪʃənəri‖-neri/ *n* [U] **1** materials for writing; paper, pens, pencils, etc. **2** paper for writing letters, usu. with matching envelopes: *a letter on hotel stationery*

sta·tion house /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* POLICE STATION

sta·tion·mas·ter /ˈsteɪʃənˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæs-/ *n* the person in charge of a railway station

stations of the Cross /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ [*the*+P] (*often cap. S*) a set of 14 pictures showing events during Christ's last sufferings and death, usu. put up in order round the walls inside a Roman Catholic church

station wag·on /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* ESTATE CAR

sta·tis·tic /stəˈtɪstɪk/ *n* a single number in a collection of STATISTICS

stat·is·ti·cian /ˌstætɪˈstɪʃən/ *n* a person who works with statistics: *Government statisticians predict a fall in unemployment by 1995.*

sta·tis·tics /stəˈtɪstɪks/ *n* **1** [P] a collection of numbers which represent facts or measurements: *These statistics show that there are 57 deaths per 1000 children born.* | *He backed up his assertions by quoting the latest statistics.* | *There are no reliable statistics for the population in this period.* —see also VITAL STATISTICS **2** [U] the science of dealing with and explaining such numbers: *Statistics is a branch of mathematics.* —**tical** *adj* : *There is no statistical evidence for his claim that women are worse drivers than men.* —**tically** /kli/ *adv* : *The variation is not statistically significant.*

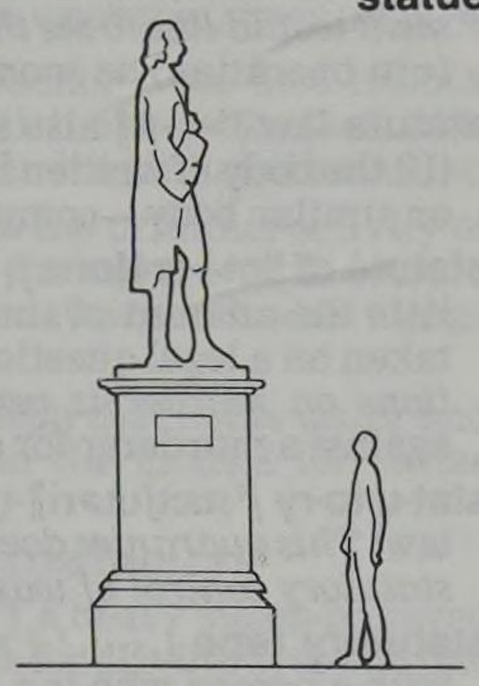
▶CULTURAL NOTE People often suggest that they are doubtful about the value of particular statistics by saying "you can prove anything with statistics" and people sometimes mention a famous remark made by Mark Twain: "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."◀

sta·tive /ˈsteɪtɪv/ *adj tech* (in grammar) being a verb that describes a state rather than an action or event, such as *belong* in *This book belongs to me* or *contain* in *This drink contains alcohol.* Stative verbs are not usu. used in PROGRESSIVE[1] (4) forms. —compare DYNAMIC (3)

stat·u·a·ry /ˈstætʃuəri‖-tʃueri/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* statues: *a fine collection of Greek statuary*

stat·ue /ˈstætʃuː/ *n* a usu. large likeness, of a person, animal, etc., made in solid material such as stone or metal: *to put up|erect a statue* | *a bronze statue of Queen Victoria* —compare SCULPTURE[1] (2)

statue



pedestal

the Statue of Liberty



Statue of Lib·er·ty /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ [*the*] a statue of a woman on Liberty Island, in New York Harbour, given to the US by France in 1884 to celebrate the American and French REVOLUTIONS. The woman is holding up a TORCH in her right hand and represents freedom. —see colour map on page 1376. The words written at the base of the statue are famous and well-known to most Americans. These words are:

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless tempest-tossed to me!
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

stat·u·esque /ˌstætʃuˈesk◂/ *adj* like a statue in grace, formal beauty, grandness, etc.: *a tall statuesque woman*

stat·u·ette /ˌstætʃuˈet/ *n* a very small statue for putting on a table or shelf —compare BUST[1] (1)

stat·ure /ˈstætʃəʳ/ *n* [C;U] *fml* **1** the degree to which someone is admired or regarded as important and influential, based on their proved worth: *a politician of (considerable) stature, who is widely respected by people of all parties* **2** a person's natural height: *She had not yet grown to (her) full stature.* | *diminutive stature*

sta·tus /ˈsteɪtəs‖ˈsteɪtəs, ˈstæ-/ *n* **1** [C;U] one's legal position, or condition: *Please state your name, age, and* **marital status.** (=whether you are married or not) | *What's your status in this country? Are you a citizen or an alien?* **2** [U] **a** one's social or professional rank or position, considered in relation to other people: *What's her status in the organization?* **b** high social position; recognition and respect by others **3** [C] a state or situation at a particular time: *What's the status of the talks between the government and the unions?* (=what stage have they reached, are they being successful, etc.)

status sym·bol /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n usu. derog* something which a person owns only to make an impression on other people and show his or her high social position, e.g. an expensive car or fashionable clothing

status quo /ˌsteɪtəs ˈkwəʊ‖ˌsteɪ-, ˌstæ-/ [*the*] the state of things as they are; existing state of affairs: *They are opposed to changes in the tax laws: they want to maintain|preserve the status quo.*

stat·ute /ˈstætʃuːt/ *n* a law passed by a lawmaking body, e.g. Parliament, and formally written down. British courts, unlike those of the US, cannot question a statute's effect: *Protection for the consumer is laid down by statute.*

statute book /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [*the*] *not tech* a real or imaginary

written collection of the laws in existence: *The government would like to see this new law* **on the statute book** (=in operation) *as soon as possible.*

statute law /ˈ·· ·/ ‖ also **statutory law** /ˈ···· ˌ·/ *AmE–* *n* [U] the body of written laws established by a parliament or similar body –compare COMMON LAW

statute of lim·i·ta·tions /ˌ·· · ˌ··ˈ··/ *n AmE tech* a law which lists the amount of time during which action may be taken on a legal question or crime: *The statue of limitations on murder is very long.* (=action can be taken against a murderer for a very long time after the crime)

stat·u·to·ry /ˈstætʃʊtəri‖-tʃətɔːri/ *adj* fixed or controlled by law: *This guarantee does not affect your statutory rights.* | *statutory control of wages* | *a statutory age limit*

statutory rape /ˌ···· ˈ·/ *n AmE tech* SEXUAL INTERCOURSE with a person who is a MINOR (=below the age at which they are responsible in law for their actions)

statutory sick pay /ˌ···· ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] money which, according to law, must be paid by an employer to a worker who is too ill to work: *You are entitled to statutory sick pay, except for the first three days of your absence.*

staunch[1] /stɔːntʃ‖stɔːntʃ, stɑːntʃ/ *adj apprec* dependably loyal; STEADFAST: *a staunch friend and ally* | *a staunch supporter of the Democratic party* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

staunch[2] ‖ also **stanch** *AmE–* *v* [T] to stop the flow of (esp. blood) from (a wound): *The nurse staunched (the blood from) the wound.*

stave[1] /steɪv/ *n* **1** also **staff**– the set of five lines on which music is written **2** any of the thin curved pieces of wood fitted edge to edge to form the sides of a barrel

stave[2] *v*

stave in *phr v* **staved** *or* **stove** /stəʊv/ [I;T (=**stave** sthg. ↔ **in**)] to break or be broken inwards: *The ship's side was stove in by the crash.*

stave sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* **staved** [T] to keep away for a time; hold at a distance: *We had just enough food to stave off hunger.* | *He managed to stave off some of the more embarrassing questions.*

staves /steɪvz/ *pl. of* STAFF[1] (3)

stay[1] /steɪ/ *v* **1** [I] to stop and remain rather than go on or leave: *I've got to go to a meeting later, so I can't stay.* | *I stayed late at the party last night.* | *Can you stay for/to dinner?* **2** [I+*adv/prep*; L] to continue to be in a particular place, position, or state; remain; keep or be kept: *Don't turn off here; stay on this road.* | *Stay away from my daughter!* | *Get out and stay out!* | *My children stayed out late/stayed in* (=stayed out of/in the house) *last night.* | *The price has gone down, but I doubt whether it will stay down.* | *The men stayed out (on strike) for a week.* | *I stayed up* (=did not go to bed) *until 2.00 in the morning.* | *Please stay where you are.* | *I don't know whether to stay in teaching* (=to remain a teacher) *or to try to get another job.* [+*adj*] *The weather has stayed warm all week.* [+*n*] *He never got promoted, and stayed a private during all his time in the army.* **3** [I (**at, with**)] to live in a place for a while as a visitor or guest: *My mother is staying (with us) this week.* | *We're staying at a hotel.* | *I* **stayed the night** *at a friend's house.* (=stayed from one day to the next) **4** [I *usu. imperative*] *old use* to stop; wait a moment: *But stay! What is this?* **5** [T] *fml* to reduce the strength of: ALLAY: *stay their fears* **6 be here to stay/have come to stay** to become generally accepted: *Do you think coloured hair is here to stay, or will the fashion change again?* **7 stay after school** *euph* to be given a DETENTION (2) **8 stay put** *infml* to remain in one place; not move: *Just stay put for a minute while I look for him.* **9 stay the course** to last successfully until the end of something; not give up in spite of difficulties

▷USAGE 1 You **stay** *at* a hotel, but *with* friends (=in their house). 2 **Remain** is more formal than **stay**, and cannot be used in meanings **3, 4, 5, 6, 7** and **8** above. –see also LIVE (USAGE)◁

stay on *phr v* [I (**as**)] to remain after the usual or expected time for leaving: *Are you going to stay on at school after you're sixteen?*

stay[2] *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] a usu. limited time of living in a place: *a short stay in hospital* | *long-stay patients* **2** [C;U] *law* a stopping or delay by order of a judge: *The prisoner was granted (a)* **stay of execution** (=the punishment was not carried out) *because new facts in his case had come to light.*

stay[3] *n* **1** a strong wire or rope used for supporting a ship's MAST –see also STAYS **2** a short piece of plastic or wire used for keeping the COLLAR of a man's shirt stiff

stay-at-home /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n infml derog* someone who habitually stays at home and has an unadventurous life

stay·er /ˈsteɪəʳ/ *n usu. apprec* a horse or person who can keep going to the end of a long race, course, etc.

staying pow·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the power to keep going to the end; ENDURANCE; STAMINA

stays /steɪz/ *n* [P] a lady's old-fashioned undergarment stiffened by pieces of bone and worn tight around the waist

St Ber·nard /sənt ˈbɜːnəd‖ˌseɪnt bərˈnɑːrd/ *n* a large strong Swiss dog used esp. formerly for helping lost mountain travellers. Pictures of St Bernards often show them carrying a wooden container of BRANDY tied round their necks.

St Clair /sənt ˈkleəʳ‖seɪnt-/, **Lin·di** /ˈlɪndi/ a British woman who used to be a PROSTITUTE and has now formed a political party to put pressure on the government to change the laws on PROSTITUTION, to protect prostitutes and make it easier for them to work. She is sometimes referred to as "Miss Whiplash".

std *written abbrev. for:* standard

STD /ˌes tiː ˈdiː/ *n* [U] **1** subscriber trunk dialling; the telephone system in Britain allowing people to connect their own long-distance calls by use of a special number (the **STD code**) for each different telephone exchange **2** *abbrev. for:* SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

stead /ˈsted/ *n* **in someone's stead** *fml* in someone's place; instead of someone: *While the chairman is away, another director will act in his stead.* –see also INSTEAD, **stand someone in good stead** (STAND[1])

stead·fast /ˈstedfɑːst‖-fæst/ *adj fml or lit* **1** *apprec* faithful; steadily loyal: *a steadfast friend* **2** steady; not moving or movable: *a steadfast gaze* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

stead·y[1] /ˈstedi/ *adj* **1** firm or fixed in position, movement, or state; well controlled; not shaking: *Hold that candle steady.* | *Take steady aim, then fire.* | *Don't worry; the ladder's* **steady as a rock.** (=completely firm) | *It's a delicate job needing* **a steady hand/steady nerves.** – opposite **unsteady** **2** moving or developing in an even, continuous way; regular: *a steady speed* | *a long period of steady economic growth* | *a steady east wind* **3** not changing; STABLE: *My son's finally found himself* **a steady job.** **4** *apprec* dependable and serious-minded: *She needs to marry someone steady.* –**ily** *adv*: *His condition has got steadily worse.* –**iness** *n*

steady[2] *v* [I;T (DOWN)] to become or make steady: *The pound has steadied after early losses on the money markets.* | *He steadied his trembling hand with an effort.* | *A glass of whisky will steady your nerves.*

steady[3] *adv AmE* **go steady** (of a boy and a girl) to have a firm relationship and to go out together regularly.

►CULTURAL NOTE In the US it is quite usual for boys and girls of HIGH SCHOOL age (14 – 17) to go steady, and often exchange small gifts, typically rings.◄

steady[4] also **steady on** /ˌ·· ˈ·/– *interj BrE infml* be careful; watch what you're doing: *Steady (on)! You nearly knocked my glass out of my hand!*

steady[5] *n AmE* the boy or girl one is going steady with: *Jill is Ray's steady.*

steady state theo·ry /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [*the*] *tech* the idea that things in space have always existed and have always been going further apart as new atoms come into being –compare BIG BANG THEORY

steak /steɪk/ *n* **1** [C;U] a thick flat piece of meat from cattle (or from a stated animal or large fish), cut from the fleshy part and of good quality: *"How would you like your steak done, sir?" "Rare/Medium rare/Well-done, please."* | *a fillet steak* | *Two gammon steaks, please.* | *a salmon steak* –see also MINUTE STEAK **2** [U] *BrE* such cattle meat of a less good quality, usu. used in small pieces in dishes with vegetables or pastry

steak and kid·ney pie /ˌ· · ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] a dish containing steak and KIDNEY with a PASTRY top. It is thought of as a typical British dish.

steak and kidney pud·ding /ˌ· · ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] a dish containing steak, KIDNEY, and SUET, that is cooked in steam for a long time

steak·house /ˈsteɪkhaʊs/ *n* a restaurant that serves esp. steak

steak tar·tare /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] minced (MINCE) steak eaten raw, usu. with a raw egg

steal[1] /stiːl/ *v* **stole** /stəʊl/, **stolen** /ˈstəʊlən/ **1** [I;T (**from**)] to take (what belongs to someone else) without any right to it: *He was sent to prison for stealing.* | *My bicycle was stolen while I was in the shop.* | *They've had their car stolen.* (=someone has stolen it) | *There's a risk that rival companies will steal our ideas.* **2** [T (**from**)] to take or get quickly, secretly, or without permission: *I stole a kiss from her.* | *He stole a glance at the pretty girl across the table.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to move secretly or quietly: *He stole out of the house without anyone seeing him.* | (*lit*) *The evening shadows began to steal across the lawn.* **4** [T] (in BASEBALL) to move to (the next BASE[1] (6)) before another player has hit the ball: *Henderson has twelve stolen bases to his credit this season.* **5 steal a march on** to secretly or unexpectedly gain an advantage over (someone) by taking quick action **6 steal someone's heart** to cause someone to fall in love, usu. not intentionally: *He stole my heart as soon as he smiled and said my name.* **7 steal someone's thunder** *infml* to gain for oneself the success or recognition that should have gone to someone else, by doing oneself what they had intended to do **8 steal the scene/show** to get all the attention and praise expected by someone else at a show or other event

▷ USAGE One **steals** things. One **robs** people (of things): *I've been* **robbed**! | *He* **robbed** *me* **of** *my watch!* | *He* **stole** *my watch!*◁

steal[2] *n* [S] *infml, esp. AmE* something for sale very cheaply: *At 20 bucks this camera was a steal!*

stealth /stelθ/ *n* [U] *fml* the action of moving or acting secretly or unseen: *He removed the keys from the cloakroom by stealth.*

stealth bomb·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an American BOMBER aircraft which cannot be discovered by RADAR instruments

stealth·y /ˈstelθi/ *adj* quiet and secret; (trying to remain) unseen: *a stealthy glance at her watch* —**-ily** *adv*

steam[1] /stiːm/ *n* [U] **1** water in the state of a gas produced by boiling: *clouds of steam* **2** power or effort produced by steam under pressure, and used for making things work or move: *The engines are driven by steam.* | *steam-powered machinery* | *Up on the bridge, the captain ordered* **full steam ahead.** (=the ship to go forward with the fastest speed) | (fig.) *We've got government approval, so now we can* **go full steam ahead with** *our plans.* | (fig.) *He started off with great enthusiasm, but now he's beginning to* **run out of steam.** | (fig.) *There wasn't room for me in their car, so I had to get there* **under my own steam.** (=without help from anyone else) **3** the mist formed by water becoming cool: *Steam formed on the inside of the kitchen windows.* **4** railway operation by steam engines: *the age of steam* **5** *infml* strong feelings or active strength considered as trapped by self-control: *I was so angry I* **let off steam** (=tried to lose my anger) *by shouting at the dog.* | *The children are letting off steam* (=running about and playing) *in the garden.* | *By the end of the meeting she had really built up a* **head of steam**. (=she was very angry)

steam[2] *v* **1** [I] to give off steam, esp. when very hot: *a mug of steaming hot coffee* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to travel by steam power: *The ship steamed into the harbour.* **3** [T] to cook by heating with steam: *a steamed pudding* | *steamed rice* —see COOK (USAGE) **4** [T+*obj*+*adj/adv/prep*] to use steam on, esp. for unsticking or softening: *He steamed the letter open.* | *She steamed the stamp off the envelope.*

steam up *phr v* [I; T(=**steam** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to cover or be covered with steam: *His glasses (got) steamed up when he came into the warm room.* —see also STEAMED-UP

steam[3] *adj* [A *no comp.*] **1** powered by steam under pressure: *a* STEAM ENGINE/*train* **2** *BrE humor* old-fashioned: *a steam radio*

steam·boat /ˈstiːmbəʊt/ *n* a steam-powered boat made for going on rivers and along coasts

steam·ed-up /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* [F] *infml* excited and angry: *Don't get so steamed-up about it – it's really not important.*

steam en·gine /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an engine powered by steam esp. in a train

►CULTURAL NOTE The steam engine was first developed in Britain by James Watt in 1769. It brought great improvements in the making and movement of goods and played an important part in the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.◄

steam·er /ˈstiːmər/ *n* **1** a STEAMSHIP —see also PADDLE STEAMER **2** a container in which one cooks food with steam **3** a person taking part in the action of STEAMING

steam·ing /ˈstiːmɪŋ/ *n* [U] *AmE sl* the criminal activity of running with a group of others through a crowded street, shop, or train and stealing money and valuable things from the people there

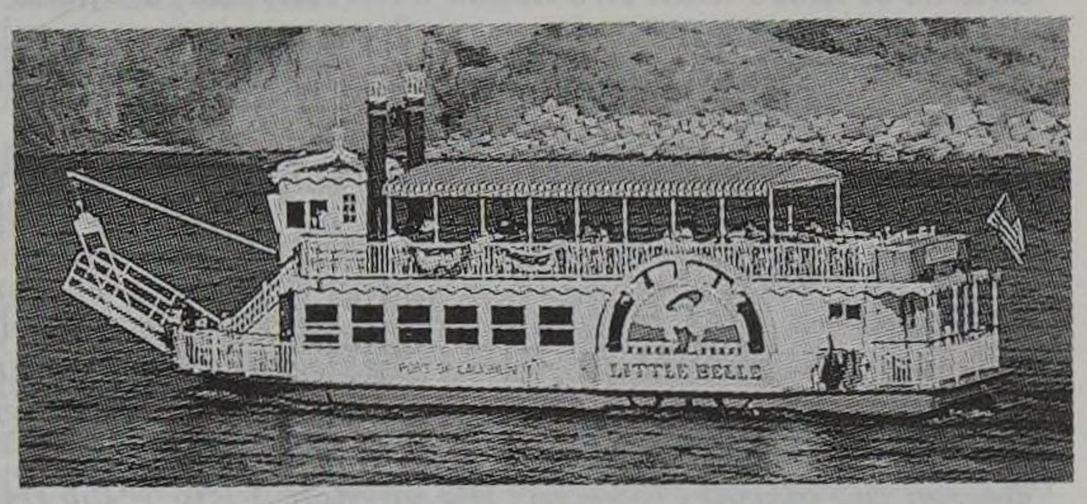
steam i·ron /ˈ· ··/ *n* an electric iron that holds water and makes steam which goes into the clothes for easier pressing

steam·roll /ˈstiːmrəʊl/ *AmE for* STEAMROLLER[2]

steam·roll·er[1] /ˈstiːmˌrəʊlər/ *n* **1** a heavy steam-powered machine with very wide wheels for driving over and flattening road surfaces **2** *infml* a force that crushes all opposition

steamroller[2] ‖ also **steamroll** *AmE*– *v* [T] *infml* to crush or force using very great power or pressure: *He steamrollered his bill through Parliament against fierce opposition.*

steamship



steamship /ˈstiːmˌʃɪp/ *n* a large non-military ship driven by steam power

steam shov·el /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* EXCAVATOR (2)

steed /stiːd/ *n usu. poet* a horse, esp. for riding: *his trusty steed*

Steed a character from the British television SERIES *The Avengers*. Steed is a well-dressed wealthy English gentleman who, with his young female companion Emma Peel, fights against crime and criminals.

steel[1] /stiːl/ *n* [U] **1** a metal consisting of iron in a hard strong form containing some CARBON and sometimes other metals, and used in building materials, cutting tools, machines, etc.: *a steel sword blade* | *a set of* **stainless steel** *knives and forks* | *the steel industry* (=industry making steel) | (fig.) *You must have* **nerves of steel** (=very strong nerves) *to be able to climb up that tall chimney.* **2** *lit* fighting weapons: *Let's give the enemy a taste of our steel.* —see also COLD STEEL

steel[2] *v* [T] to make (esp. oneself) hard, unfeeling, or determined: [+*obj*+*to-v*] *He steeled himself to tell her about her father's death.*

Steel, Sir David (1938–) a British politician born in Scotland who was leader of the Liberal Party from 1976 to 1988. In 1988, the Liberal Party joined with the Social Democratic Party to form a new party called the Social and Liberal Democrats, of which David Steel was joint leader for a short time.

steel band /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a band of a type originally heard in the West Indies, playing drums cut from metal oil barrels to sound particular notes

Steele[1] /ˈstiːl/, **Sir Richard** (1672–1729) an Irish writer who established the magazine the Tatler, for which his friend Joseph Addison wrote

Steele[2], **Tommy** (1936–) an English actor and popular music singer who has appeared in several successful stage MUSICAL, in films, and on television

steel gui·tar /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ also **pedal steel guitar**– *n* a musical instrument with 10 strings that is played using a steel bar and a PEDAL (=foot-operated bar) to produce different notes. It is very commonly heard in country and western music.

steel wool /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] material that is a mass of fine sharp-edged steel threads used for rubbing a surface smooth, removing paint, etc.—compare WIRE WOOL

steel·works /ˈstiːlwɜːks‖-wɜːrks/ *n* **steelworks** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a factory where steel is made —**steelworker** *n* : *The steelworkers have voted against strike action.*

steel·y /ˈstiːli/ *adj* like steel; hard, cold, strong, or bright: *He fixed her with a steely glare.* | *steely blue eyes* | *steely determination*

steep[1] /stiːp/ *adj* **1** rising or falling quickly or at a large angle: *This hill's too steep to ride up on a bicycle.* | *a steep rise in prices/fall in living standards* **2** *infml* (of a demand or esp. a price) unreasonable; too much: *He's asking £500 for his old car, which I think is a bit steep!* — ~**ly** *adv* : *The rocks rose steeply out of the river.* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

steep[2] *v* [I;T (**in**)] **1** to (let) stay in a liquid, for softening, cleaning, bringing out a taste, etc.; SOAK: *Steep the stained cloth in bleach overnight.* | *The shirts are steeping.* **2 steeped in** thoroughly filled or familiar with: *a very ancient building that is steeped in history* | *The daily lives of the tribe were steeped in custom and tradition.*

steep·en /ˈstiːpən/ *v* [I;T] to become or make steeper: *The slope steepened as we went higher.*

stee·ple /ˈstiːpəl/ *n* a church tower with a top part (SPIRE) rising to a high sharp point

stee·ple·chase /ˈstiːpəltʃeɪs/ *n* **1** a horse race over a course of more than two miles with various jumps to be made —compare FLAT RACING **2** a running race with jumps, esp. a 3000-metre race with 35 jumps to be made during the run

stee·ple·jack /ˈstiːpəldʒæk/ *n* a person who works on towers, tall chimneys, steeples, etc., repairing them, painting them, etc.

steer[1] /stɪəʳ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make (esp. a boat or road vehicle) go in a particular direction: *She steered with one hand while trying to adjust the rear-view mirror with the other.* | *He steered the boat carefully between the rocks.* | (fig.) *I steered the visitors towards the garden.* | (fig.) *She tried to steer the conversation away from such dangerous topics.* | (fig.) *steering a bill through Parliament* **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to follow or change to (a particular course), esp. in a boat: *We turned about and steered (a course) for Port-of-Spain.* | *to steer a middle course between two extremes* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] (of a boat or vehicle) to act when one turns its steering wheel: *How does your car steer? Does it take the corners well?* **4 steer clear (of)** *infml* to keep away (from); avoid: *I should steer clear of the fish stew; it's not very nice!*

▷ USAGE You can **steer** *ships, cars, lorries*, etc., and also such things as *cycles* and *sledges*, but not *aircraft*; for these, the usual verbs are **fly** and **pilot.** —see also BOAT (USAGE), CAR (USAGE), DRIVE (USAGE)◁

steer[2] *n* a young male animal of the cattle family with its sex organs removed, kept for meat —compare BULLOCK, HEIFER, OX

steer·age /ˈstɪərɪdʒ/ *n* [U] (esp. in former times) the part of a passenger ship for those with the cheapest tickets: *We travelled (in the) steerage.* | *steerage passengers*

steering com·mit·tee /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a committee that guides or directs a particular piece of activity

steering wheel /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a wheel which one turns to make a vehicle or ship turn left or right —see picture at CAR

steers·man /ˈstɪəzmən‖ˈstɪərz-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *esp. lit* a person who steers a ship or boat; HELMSMAN

Stef·fens /ˈstefənz/, **Lincoln** (1866–1936) an American writer, known esp. for the many magazine articles that he wrote about the crime and dishonesty in city governments, including those collected in *The Shame of the Cities*

stein /staɪn/ *n* **1** a tall thick cup for beer, often decorated and having a lid **2** *AmE for* TANKARD

Stein, Ger·trude /ˈgɜːtruːd‖ˈgɜːr-/ (1874–1946) an American writer whose works include *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*

Stein·beck /ˈstaɪnbek/, **John** (1902–68) an American writer best-known for his NOVELS which show great feeling and concern for poor people and their problems. His best known works are *The Grapes of Wrath, Cannery Row, East of Eden* and *Of Mice and Men.* He won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1962.

Stei·nem /ˈstaɪnəm/, **Glo·ri·a** /ˈglɔːriə/ (1934–) an American writer who established the magazine *Ms.* and is known for her FEMINIST views and work

Stei·ner /ˈstaɪnəʳ/, **Ru·dolf** /ˈruːdɒlf‖-ɑːlf/ (1861–1925) an Austrian thinker who developed a system to try to explain the world by giving importance to the human spirit. There are still some private schools around the world which are based on his teachings. They are often called **Steiner Schools** or **Waldorf Schools**.

Stein·way /ˈstaɪnweɪ/ *tdmk* a company that makes good quality pianos, established in New York by **Henry Steinway** (1797–1871): *They've just bought a new Steinway.*

Stel·la Ar·tois /ˌstelə ɑːˈtwɑː‖-ɑːr-/ *n tdmk* a kind of LAGER

stel·lar /ˈsteləʳ/ *adj* [A] *tech* of the stars: *a stellar map* —see also INTERSTELLAR

stem[1] /stem/ *n* **1 a** the central part of a plant above the ground, from which branches grow **b** a plant part which supports a leaf or flower; STALK **2** a narrow upright part which supports another: *the stem of a wine glass* —see picture at GLASS **3** the narrow tube of a tobacco pipe **4** the part of a word whose spelling remains the same when different endings are added on to it: *From the stem "driv-", we get "drives", "driven", and "driving".* —compare ROOT[1] (5) **5 from stem to stern** all the way from the front to the back, esp. of a ship **6 -stemmed** /stemd/ having the stated type or number of stems: *long-stemmed roses/wine glasses*

stem[2] *v* **-mm-** [T] *fml* to stop (the flow of): *How can we stem the bleeding/the flow of blood?* | (fig.) *A radical change of policy is necessary if the government is to* **stem the tide** *of public opinion against it.*

stem from sthg. *phr v* [T] to exist or happen as a result of; have as an origin or cause: *The present difficulties stem from our failure to deal with the problem when it first arose.*

stench /stentʃ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *fml* a very strong bad smell: *the stench of rotting meat/* (fig.) *of official corruption*

sten·cil[1] /ˈstensəl/ *n* **1** a piece of material, esp. card or metal, in which patterns or letters have been cut **2** the pattern or letters made by putting paint or ink through the spaces in this onto paper, etc.

stencil[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T] to make (a copy of) by using a stencil

Sten·dhal /ˈstɒndɑːl‖stenˈdɑːl/ (1783–1842) a French writer whose best-known books are *Le Rouge et le Noir* and *La Chartreuse de Parme*

Sten gun /ˈsten ˌgʌn/ *n* a small British SUBMACHINE GUN

ste·nog·ra·pher /stəˈnɒgrəfəʳ‖-ˈnɑː-/ also **sten·o** /ˈstenəʊ/— *n esp. old use or AmE for* SHORTHAND TYPIST

ste·nog·ra·phy /stəˈnɒgrəfi‖-ˈnɑː-/ also **sten·o** /ˈstenəʊ/ *AmE for* SHORTHAND (1)

sten·to·ri·an /stenˈtɔːriən/ *adj fml or lit* (of the voice) very loud; powerful: *"Get out," he roared, in stentorian tones.*

step[1] /step/ *n* **1** an act of moving by raising one foot and bringing it down somewhere else: *With every step I took the load seemed to get heavier.* | *Take two steps forward and two steps back.* | (*lit*) *The sun was setting as he* **directed/bent his steps** (=walked) *towards home.* **2** the sound this makes: *I heard a step in the corridor.* —compare FOOTSTEP **3 a** the distance covered in one step: *a tobacconist, and just a few steps further on a newsagent* **b** [S] a short distance: *It's just a step from my house to his.* —compare PACE[1] (2) **4** a flat narrow surface, esp. one in a set of surfaces each higher than the one before, on which the foot is placed for climbing up and down; stair, RUNG of a ladder, etc.: *Mind the step outside the door.* —see also DOORSTEP, STEPS **5** an act, esp. one of a set of actions, which should produce a certain result: *Our first step must be a change in working hours; then we must decide how to improve conditions.* | *We must* **take steps** (=take action) *to help the families of those who were hurt.* | *It's only a short step from this proposal to selling off all our assets.* | *These new arrangements may not be the final answer to our problems, but at least they're a* **step in the right direction.** | *The new therapy is seen as a major step in the treatment of/towards the cure of nervous disorders.* **6** a degree on a scale, or a stage in a process: *For every year you've worked here you go up another step on the salary scale.* | *He supported her every step of the way* (=completely) | *I hear she's been promoted to sales manager; that's quite a step up for someone so young.* | *A teacher should always be at least* **one step ahead** *of his pupils.* (=should know more than them and be prepared for their questions, needs, etc.) —compare STAGE[1] (2) **7**

a particular movement of the feet in dancing: *I'm trying to learn a new step.* —see also QUICKSTEP **8** *esp. AmE* (in music) a TONE[1] (6) **9 in step/out of step: a** (esp. of soldiers) marching in such a way that each person's right foot and left foot move forward at the same time/a different time as other people's **b** (of a person or behaviour) in/not in accordance or agreement with others: *He is out of step with modern life.* | *to keep in step with fashion* **10 one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind** *quote* the first words said by the ASTRONAUT Neil Armstrong when he became the first man to walk on the moon in 1969 —see picture on page 752 **11 step by step** gradually: *He learnt the rules step by step.* | *step-by-step instructions* —see also **watch one's step** (WATCH[1])

step[2] *v* **-pp-** [I+*adv/prep*] **1** to raise one foot and put it down, usu. in front of the other, in order to move along: *I stepped forward to receive my prize.* | *The conductor stepped down from the podium.* | *She stepped carefully around the puddle.* | *He stepped aside to allow the hurrying nurses to pass.* | (fig.) *The police have appealed for witnesses to step forward.* (=to offer to help the police) **2** *fml* to go a short distance on foot: *Step into the house/inside while you're waiting.* | *Kindly step this way.* (=come where I have shown you) **3** [esp. **on**] to bring the foot down; TREAD: *She stepped on a loose stone and twisted her ankle.* **4 step on it/on the gas** *infml* to go faster **5 step out of line** *derog* to act differently from others or from what is expected —see also SIDESTEP

step down/aside *phr v* [I (**as, in favour of**)] to leave one's job, official position, etc.: *The chairman feels it is time he stepped down (in favour of a younger man).*

step in *phr v* [I] to enter an argument or begin to take action in an affair; INTERVENE: *If the dispute gets any worse the government will have to step in.*

step out *phr v* **1** [I] *BrE old-fash* to start walking fast: *Come on! If we step out we'll be there in half an hour.* **2** [I] *esp. AmE* to go outside or go somewhere: *Molly stepped out but she'll be back soon.* **3** [T] **step out on** *AmE infml* to be unfaithful to (one's husband or wife)

step sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] to increase (an amount of something) in size or speed: *We're trying to step up production to meet the increased demand.*

step- see WORD FORMATION

step·broth·er /ˈstepbrʌðəʳ/ *n* a male person whose father or mother has married one's mother or father

step·child /ˈsteptʃaɪld/ *n* **-chil·dren** /tʃɪldrən/ a child that one's husband/wife has as a result of an earlier marriage and for whom one has no legal responsibility; a **stepson** or **stepdaughter**

step·daugh·ter /ˈstepdɔːtəʳ/ *n* a female stepchild

step·fa·ther /ˈstepfɑːðəʳ/ *n* a man one's mother has married who is not one's natural father

Step·ford Wives /ˌstepfəd ˈwaɪvz‖-fərd-/, **The** a book by Ira Levin, also made into a successful film, about a group of married women in a village, who are made to act in a very PASSIVE way by the men of the village. The women are only interested in cooking, cleaning their houses, and pleasing their husbands in every way.

Steph·an·o·pou·los /ˌstɛfən ˈɒpəlɒs/, **George** (1961–) US President Bill Clinton's Director of Communications

Ste·phen·son[1] /ˈstiːvənsən/, **George** (1781–1848) an English engineer who built the first train with a steam engine in 1814 and the first public railway in 1825. He is remembered esp. for his steam train "The Rocket".

Stephenson[2], **Rob·ert** /ˈɹɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt/ (1803–1859) an English engineer, the son of George Stephenson. He continued his father's work on the development of the steam-powered train, but is best-remembered as a builder of bridges, including that over the Menai Straits.

step·lad·der /ˈstepˌlædəʳ/ *n* a sloping framework of two parts, one of which is like a ladder, which is used in the house for reaching high places and can be folded together for storing

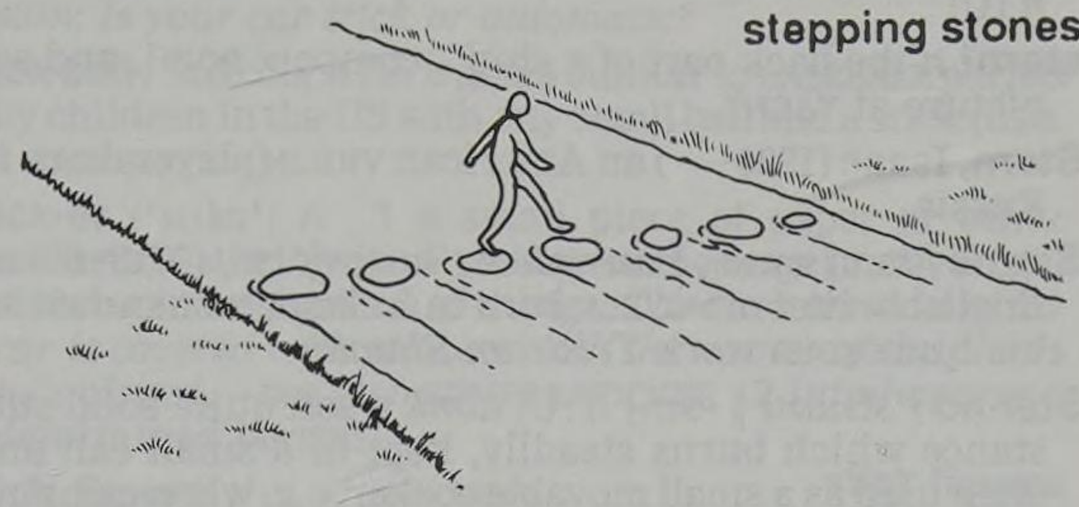
step·moth·er /ˈstepmʌðəʳ/ *n* a woman one's father has married who is not one's natural mother

►CULTURAL NOTE In children's stories a stepmother is often shown as being a wicked, cruel person who does not love her stepchildren (STEPCHILD), and is sometimes also shown as a WITCH.◄

step·par·ent /ˈstepˌpeərənt/ *n* a stepmother or STEPFATHER

steppes /steps/ *n* [*the*+P] (*often cap.*) a large area of land without trees, esp. that in Russia and parts of Asia and southeast Europe

stepping stones



stepping-stone /ˈ‥ ·/ *n* **1** any of a row of large stones with a level top, which one walks on to cross a river or stream **2** [(**to**)] a way of improvement or gaining success: *Are good exam results a stepping-stone to a well-paid career?*

steps /steps/ *n* [P] **1** a number or set of STEPS[1] (4), usu. outside and made of stone: *She climbed the* **flight of steps** *to the door.* | *He took a photograph of her on the church steps.* —compare STAIRS, STAIRCASE **2** *BrE for* STEPLADDER —see PAIR (USAGE)

step·sis·ter /ˈstepsɪstəʳ/ *n* a female person whose father or mother has married one's mother or father

step·son /ˈstepsʌn/ *n* a male STEPCHILD

Step·toe and Son /ˈsteptəʊ ənd ˌsʌn/ a very popular British television COMEDY programme about Albert and Harold Steptoe, a father and son who work as RAG-AND-BONE men in London. First shown in the 1960s, it is considered one of the best British television comedies.

ster·e·o[1] /ˈsteriəʊ, ˈstɪər-/ *n* **-os** **1** [C] a record player which gives out sound from two places by means of two SPEAKERS —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** [U] stereo sound: *This programme is being broadcast* **in stereo.**

stereo[2] also **ster·e·o·phon·ic** /ˌsteriəˈfɒnɪk◂, ˌstɪər-‖-ˈfɑː-/ *fml– adj* using a system of sound recording, broadcasting, or receiving in which the sound comes from two different places, to give an effect of greater reality: *a stereo recording* | *a stereo record player* —compare MONO, QUADRAPHONIC

ster·e·o·scop·ic /ˌsteriəˈskɒpɪk◂‖-ˈskɑː-/ *adj* seen or seeing (as if) with depth and distance, rather than as a flat picture: *stereoscopic vision*

stereo sys·tem /ˈ‥ ˌ‥/ *n AmE for* MUSIC CENTRE

ster·e·o·type[1] /ˈsteriətaɪp/ *n* [(**of**)] *usu. derog* (someone or something that represents) a fixed set of ideas about what a particular type of person or thing is like, which is (wrongly) believed to be true in all cases: *She believes that she is not a good mother because she does not fit the stereotype of a woman who spends all her time with her children.* | *The characters in the film are just stereotypes, with no individuality.* | *racial stereotypes* —**-typical** /ˌsteriəʊˈtɪpɪkəl◂/ *adj*

stereotype[2] *v* [T] *derog* to have, show, or encourage a fixed and usu. incorrect idea of what (someone or something) is like; regard as an example of a general type: *It's wrong to stereotype people, as if they were all alike.* | *a stereotyped view of teachers* | *stereotyped answers*

ster·ile /ˈsteraɪl‖-rəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] (of a living thing) unable to produce young: *Because of exposure to dangerous radiation, the woman had become sterile.* —compare FERTILE **2** free from all harmful bacteria and similar extremely small living things: *An operating theatre should be a sterile environment.* **3** (of land) unable to produce crops **4** *derog* (of ideas or speech) lacking new thought, imagination, etc. —**-ility** /stəˈrɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

ster·il·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsterɨlaɪz/ *v* [T] to make STERILE (1,2): *to have the cat sterilized* | *Have these instruments been sterilized, nurse?* | *sterilized milk* —**-izer** *n* —**-ization** /ˌsterɨlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [U]

ster·ling[1] /ˈstɜːlɪŋ‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] *tech* the type of money used in Britain, based on the pound (£): *The value/strength of sterling has risen.* | *sterling travellers cheques.* [after *n*] *the* **pound sterling** (=the British pound)

sterling[2] *adj* [A] **1** [*no comp.*] *tech* (of gold and esp. silver) of a fixed standard of pureness **2** *fml* of the highest standard, esp. in being loyal, dependable, and brave: *We all admire her sterling qualities.* | *a sterling effort*

stern[1] /stɜːn‖stɜːrn/ *adj* **1** showing firmness and severity: *a stern teacher | stern discipline* **2** showing displeasure or disapproval: *a stern look|rebuke* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

stern[2] *n* the back part of a ship —compare BOW[5], and see picture at YACHT

Stern, Isaac (1920–) an American VIOLIN player, born in Russia

Sterne /stɜːn‖stɜːrn/, **Laur·ence** /ˈlɒrəns‖ˈlɔː-/ (1713–68) an English writer of NOVELS, born in Ireland, best-known for his humorous work *Tristram Shandy*

Ster·no /ˈstɜːnəʊ ‖ -ɜːr-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft quite solid substance which burns steadily, kept in a small can and often used as a small movable cooker, e.g. when camping

ster·num /ˈstɜːnəm‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **-nums** *or* **-na** /nə/ *med for* BREASTBONE —see picture at SKELETON

ste·roid /ˈstɪərɔɪd, ˈste-/ *n* any of various chemical compounds, including many HORMONES, that have a strong effect on the workings of the body.

►CULTURAL NOTE Steroids are sometimes used by sports people to strengthen the body and improve performance although their use is illegal in most national and international sports competitions.◄

ster·to·rous /ˈstɜːtərəs‖-ɜːr-/ *adj lit or humor* making a noisy sound while breathing: *a stertorous sleeper* —~**ly** *adv*

stet /stet/ *interj* (used as a note for asking a printer not to remove or change writing which has been crossed out)

steth·o·scope /ˈsteθəskəʊp/ *n* a medical instrument with two pipelike parts that fit into a doctor's ears and a cuplike part that is put on someone's chest, so that the doctor can hear the sound of the heartbeat

stet·son /ˈsetsən/ *n tdmk* (*often cap.*) a man's tall hat with a wide edge (BRIM) standing out round the head, worn esp. in the American West by COWBOYS —see picture at HAT

ste·ve·dore /ˈstiːvɪdɔːr/ *n esp. old fash AmE* a person whose job is loading and unloading ships; DOCKER

Ste·ven·age /ˈstiːvənɪdʒ/ a town in Hertfordshire, England, which was developed as a NEW TOWN in 1946

Ste·vens[1] /ˈstiːvənz/, **Cat** (1947–) a British popular music singer, songwriter, and GUITAR player successful in the 1960s and 1970s

Stevens[2], **Thad·de·us** /ˈθædiəs/ (1792–1868) an American politician and member of the House of Representatives who was a leader of the Republicans' Reconstruction programme after the Civil War

Stevens[3], **Wallace** (1879–1955) an American poet whose collections of poems include *Harmonium* and *The Man with the Blue Guitar*

Ste·ven·son[1] /ˈstiːvənsən/, **Ad·lai** /ˈædlaɪ/ **E** (1900–65) an American politician in the Democratic Party who was governor of Illinois from 1949 to 1953. He ran for president in 1952 and 1956, but was defeated on both occasions by Eisenhower. He is remembered as an internationalist and a thoughtful politician who supported suggestions for change.

Stevenson[2], **Rob·ert Lou·is** /ˈrɒbət ˈluːɪs ‖ ˈrɑːbərt/ (1850–94) a Scottish writer whose books *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped* are among the best-known adventure stories in English. He also wrote the famous book, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.*

stew[1] /stjuː‖stuː/ *v* [I;T] **1** to cook or be cooked slowly and gently in liquid: *stewed apples* —see COOK (USAGE) **2 stew in one's (own) juice** *infml* to (be left to) suffer as a result of one's own actions

stew[2] *n* **1** [C;U] a dish consisting usu. of meat and vegetables cooked together in liquid: *a vegetable|fish|beef stew* —see also IRISH STEW; see COOK (USAGE) **2** [S] **a** *infml* a confused anxious state of mind: *There's no need to get* **in a stew;** *everything will be all right.* **b** a difficult situation; MESS: *the government's attempts to get out of the stew it has got itself into*

stew·ard /ˈstjuːəd‖ˈstuːərd/ *n* **1 stew·ard·ess** /-dɪs/ *fem.*— a person who serves passengers on a ship, plane, train, etc.: *the chief steward | an* **air stewardess** (=on a plane) **2** *BrE* a man who arranges and is in charge of a public amusement, such as a horse race, a meeting, etc.: *The winning jockey may not have ridden fairly, so there will have to be a* **stewards' enquiry.** **3** a man who arranges the supply and serving of food in a place such as a club or college **4** *esp. old use* a man who is employed to look after a house and lands, such as a farm —see also SHOP STEWARD

stew·ard·ship /ˈstjuːədʃɪp‖ˈstuːərd-/ *n* [U (**of**)] *fml or pomp* the responsibilities connected with something: *He has faithfully exercised the stewardship of his post.*

Stew·art /ˈstjuːət‖ˈstuːərt/, **Jackie** (1939–) a Scottish racing driver who won 27 Grand Prix races and won the world CHAMPIONSHIP three times

Stewart, James (1908–) an American film actor known for his easily recognizable slow way of speaking. His many films include *Mr Smith Goes to Washington, The Philadelphia Story* and *Shenandoah.*

Stewart, Rod (1945–) a British popular music singer and songwriter, born in London and successful esp. in the 1970s and 1980s. He is known for his pride in his Scottish family background and his love of football. His songs include *Sailing* and *Tonight's the Night.*

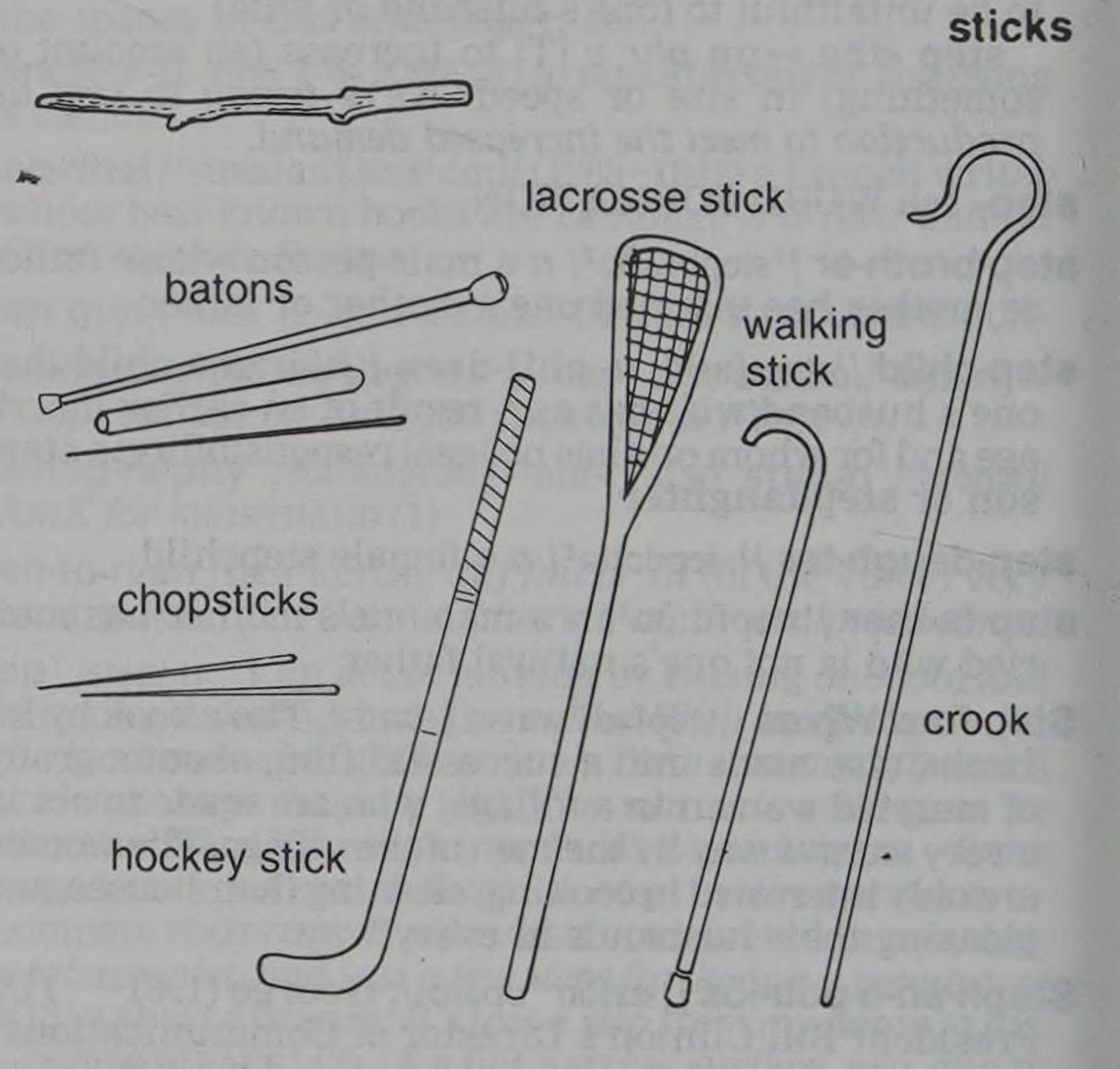
stewed /stjuːd‖stuːd/ *adj* **1** *BrE* (of tea) kept too long before pouring, and so tasting too strong and bitter **2** cooked in liquid: *stewed prunes|tomatoes* **3** [F] *infml* drunk

stewing steak /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] BEEF (=meat from a cow) that is not tender enough to eat if it is not cooked slowly in liquid for a long time, or made into a STEW

St Hel·ens /sənt ˈheləns‖seɪnt-/ an industrial town in Merseyside, NW England, E of Liverpool

St Helens, Mount a mountain in the S of Washington State, US, a VOLCANO which erupted (ERUPT) in 1980 after a quiet period of over a hundred years

Stich /ʃtɪk, ʃtɪx/, **Mi·chael** /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1968–) a German tennis player who won at Wimbledon in 1991



stick[1] /stɪk/ *n* **1** [C] a small thin branch or part of a branch that has fallen or been cut from a tree: *We gathered some sticks to build a fire.* —see also TWIG **2** [C] a thin rod of wood or metal used to support the body when walking; WALKING STICK: *Since the accident she has had to walk with a stick.* —see also CANE[1] (4) **3** [C] a long thin piece of wood used **a** for hitting: *I'll* **take a stick to** (=hit) *that dog if it doesn't keep quiet.* —see also BIG STICK **b** for playing certain sports: *a lacrosse|hockey stick* **4** [C (**of**)] a thin rod of any material: *a stick of rock* (=a hard kind of sweet) | *a stick of chalk|celery|dynamite|butter|gum | incense sticks* **5** [U] *BrE infml* severe treatment: *She really* **gave him (the) stick** *about the way he made a mess of the contract negotiations. | Those workmen will get some stick from me if they don't finish their job properly.* **6** [C] *old-fash infml, esp. BrE* a person of the stated type: *He's a dull|dry* **old stick.** | *She's quite a nice old stick when you get to know her.* **7** [C] also **stick of furniture**— *infml* a piece of furniture, esp. of little value or importance: *After the terrible fire we were left with hardly a stick (of furniture).* —see also STICKS, **get (hold of) the wrong end**

of the stick (WRONG[1]), **more than one can shake a stick at** (SHAKE[1])

stick[2] *v* **stuck** /stʌk/ **1** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to push (esp. a pointed object) into or through something: *Don't stick pins into the chair!* | *She stuck her fork into the meat.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) be fixed (as if) with a sticky substance: *What's wrong with this stamp? It won't stick.* | *The paint was still wet and the door handle stuck to my hand.* | *"The handle's broken off." "Stick it with glue."* | *He stuck down the flap of the envelope.* | *He stuck the picture on the wall.* **3** [I] to become fixed in position; not move: *He tried to poke his head through the tiny opening, but it stuck.* | *I can't get this door to open – it keeps sticking.* | (fig.) *a chance remark which stuck in her mind* (=which she (frequently) remembered) –see also STUCK[2] **4** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* to put: *Stick your coat down over there.* | *She stuck the flowers in a vase of water.* **5** [T *usu. in questions and negatives; not in progressive forms*] *infml, esp. BrE* to like or accept; bear: *I* **can't stick** *her husband.* | *I can't stick this dull job any longer.* [+*v-ing*] *I can't stick waiting around like this.* **6** [I] *infml* to remain in effect, esp. by being able to be proved: *The police won't bring the case to court because they don't think they can make the charges stick.* **7** [T] *sl* to keep (something unwanted): *If that's all you're prepared to pay, you* **can stick** *your job.* (=because I certainly do not want it) **8 stick in one's throat** *infml* to be hard to accept: *Having to pay out £50 for such a small repair really sticks in my throat.* **9 stick it to someone** *AmE infml* treat someone very badly, esp. by charging too much money: *They really stuck it to us when they saw we were driving a Cadillac.*

stick about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* to not go away; stay or wait in a place, esp. in the hope of some advantage

stick at sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to continue to work hard at: *If we stick at it, we should finish the job by midnight.* **2** to be unwilling to do (esp. something wrong) (usu. in the phrase **stick at nothing**): *He'll stick at nothing, not even breaking the law, to get his own way.*

stick by sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to continue to support: *I still stick by what I said in the first place: I don't believe her.* | *I'll always stick by my friends.*

stick out *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**stick** sthg.↔**out**)] to (cause to) come outwards from a surface or main part; (cause to) PROJECT: *Her ears stick out.* | *I stuck my tongue out at him.* (=esp. as a rude sign of dislike) | *She stuck out her foot and tripped him over.* **2** [I] *infml* to be very clearly seen: *He's guilty and it* **sticks out a mile.** (=is very clear) | *When I turned up at the formal dinner wearing jeans and a sweatshirt I* **stuck out like a sore thumb.** (=clearly looked very unsuitable) **3** [T] (**stick** sthg. ↔ **out**) to continue to the end of (something difficult): *I don't know if I'll be able to stick out the evening.* | *I don't like this course, but I'll* **stick it out** *somehow.* **4 stick one's neck out** *infml* to take a risk; say or do something that may fail, be wrong, or harm one: *A politician supporting an unpopular law is sticking his neck out; he may lose the next election.*

stick out for sthg. *phr v* [T] to refuse to accept less than (what one asked for): *In spite of the boss's refusal, the staff are sticking out for higher pay.*

stick to sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to act according to or keep to (something); not give up: *I've made my decision and I'm going to stick to it.* | *We haven't got much time, so please stick to the point.* (=don't talk about anything other than the subject we are supposed to be talking about) | *I didn't like that China tea; I'll stick to Indian tea in future.* –see also STICK-TO-ITIVENESS **2 stick to one's guns** *infml* to continue to express one's beliefs or carry on a course of action in spite of attacks

stick together *phr v* [I] *infml* (of two or more people) to stay loyal to each other

stick up *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** (**stick up** sthg./sbdy.) to rob or threaten with a gun: *to stick up a bank* **2** [*usu. imperative*] (**stick** sthg.↔**up**) to raise (the hands) when threatened with a gun: *He stuck a gun into my back and said* **"Stick 'em up."** –see also STICK-UP

stick up for sbdy. *phr v* [T] to support and defend by words or actions: *When they hit you, you should stick up for yourself instead of crying.* | *When everyone else was criticizing him she was the only one who stuck up for him.*

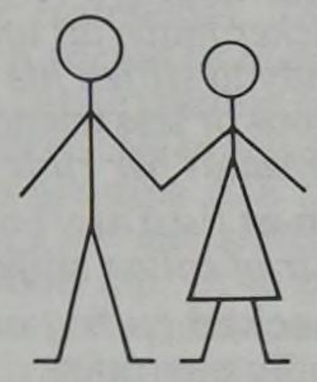
stick with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to stay close to or loyal to: *I know you're new in this job, but stick with me and you'll be all right.* **2** *infml* to remain in the memory of: *One thing he said really stuck with me...* **3 stick with it** to continue, esp. in spite of difficulties; PERSIST

stick[3] *adj AmE infml* (of a car) having a MANUAL TRANSMISSION: *Is your car stick or automatic?*

stick·ball /ˈstɪkbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game similar to BASEBALL played by children in the US with any small ball and a stick (usu. a BROOMSTICK)

stick·er /ˈstɪkəʳ/ *n* **1** a small piece of paper or other material (LABEL) with a picture or message on the front, which can be stuck on to things: *The back window of his car is covered with stickers with the names of the places he's visited.* –see also BUMPER STICKER **2** *infml apprec* a determined person

stick fig·ure /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a very simple drawing of a person, using lines for the limbs and a circle for the head



stick figures

sticking plas·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n BrE fml for* PLASTER[1] (2)

sticking point /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* something that prevents an agreement: *In the strike talks, the question of compulsory redundancy could prove a sticking point.*

stick in·sect /ˈ· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **walkingstick** *AmE*– *n* a usu. wingless insect with a long thin body like a stick

stick-in-the-mud /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n infml derog* a person who will not change or accept new things: *He's stubborn and conservative; in fact he's a real old stick-in-the-mud!*

stick·le·back /ˈstɪkəlbæk/ *n* a small fish with several sharp points on its back

stick·ler /ˈstɪkləʳ/ *n* [(**for**)] *infml* a person who considers a particular quality, sort of behaviour, etc. to be very important, and demands that people should act in accordance with this: *The sergeant major's a stickler for discipline.*

stick-on /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] which has a sticky substance on the back by which it can be fixed: *a stick-on price label*

stick·pin /ˈstɪkˌpɪn/ *n AmE* a decorative pin, esp. one worn on a tie

sticks /stɪks/ *n* [*the*+P] *infml, often derog* a country area far from modern life: *They live* **out in the sticks.**

stick shift /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* **1** a GEAR LEVER **2** a car that uses a GEAR LEVER

stick-to-it·ive·ness /stɪk ˈtuː ɪtˌɪvnˌəs/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* the ability to continue with effort, esp. in the face of difficulties

stick-up /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a robbery carried out by threatening with a gun –see also STICK **up**

stick·y /ˈstɪki/ *adj* **1** made of, containing, or covered with a substance, esp. a thick liquid, which stays fixed to anything it touches, and is used for fastening things firmly together: *sticky sweets* | *His fingers are sticky with jam.* | *sticky labels* **2** *infml* (of a situation) difficult; awkward: *He put me in rather a sticky position by telling me that secret; they're sure to ask me about it.* **3** [F (**about**)] *infml* not willing to help, be generous, etc.: *I asked him to lend me some money, but he was rather sticky about it.* **4 have sticky fingers** *AmE infml* to be likely to steal something: *That boy has sticky fingers. Keep an eye on him while he's in the store.* –**iness** *n* [U]

sticky end /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE infml* bad or dishonourable ruin, destruction, etc., esp. an unpleasant death: *He'll* **come to/meet a sticky end** *if he goes on driving so crazily.*

sticky wick·et /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [(**on**) S] *BrE infml* a situation that is or may become difficult

Stieg·litz /ˈstiːglɪts/, **Al·fred** /ˈælfrəd/ (1864–1946) an American photographer who helped to establish photography as a form of art

stiff[1] /stɪf/ *adj* **1** not easily bent or changed in shape; RIGID: *stiff paper* | *Shoes are often stiff when they're new.* | *Beat the egg whites until stiff.* **2** (esp. of joints or muscles of the body) not bending or moving easily, and often painful: *I can't play the piano like I used to – my fingers have gone stiff from lack of practice.* | *a stiff back* | *He felt very stiff the day after his first weight-training class.* | *I had difficulty turning the key – the lock's very stiff.* **3** formal;

not friendly: *a stiff smile | Her rather stiff manner puts people off.* **4** [A] *infml* strong, esp. in alcohol: *I need a stiff whisky. | a stiff dose of medicine* **5** not showing any willingness to be kind; severe: *The judge gave him a stiff sentence.* **6** difficult to do or to deal with: *They gave me a very stiff assignment. | There's stiff competition for this job.* (=a lot of people are trying to get it) | *a stiff climb|examination* **7** full of determination: *The army encountered stiff resistance from rebels in the hills.* **8** *infml* unacceptable, esp. unacceptably expensive: *a stiff price to pay* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

stiff[2] *adv* extremely: *I was* **frozen/bored/scared stiff.**

stiff[3] *n sl* **1** a dead body **2** a formal unfriendly person **3** *AmE* an ordinary working person

stiff·en /ˈstɪfən/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make or become firm: *The dress is made of a very light material, but it's stiffened with a thicker material underneath.* | (fig.) *He took a glass of brandy to stiffen his resolve.* **2** [I] to become suddenly anxious or less friendly, esp. when afraid or offended: *He stiffened at her rude remarks.*

stiff·en·er /ˈstɪfənəʳ/ *n* a thing which stiffens something: *a pair of collar stiffeners*

stiff-necked /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj fml* refusing to change or obey; proudly OBSTINATE

stiff upper lip /ˌ· ·· ˈ·/ *n* [S] the ability to accept bad luck or unpleasant events without appearing upset. This is thought to be typical of British people, esp. UPPER-CLASS British people: *British men are taught to* **keep a stiff upper lip** *and show no emotion.*

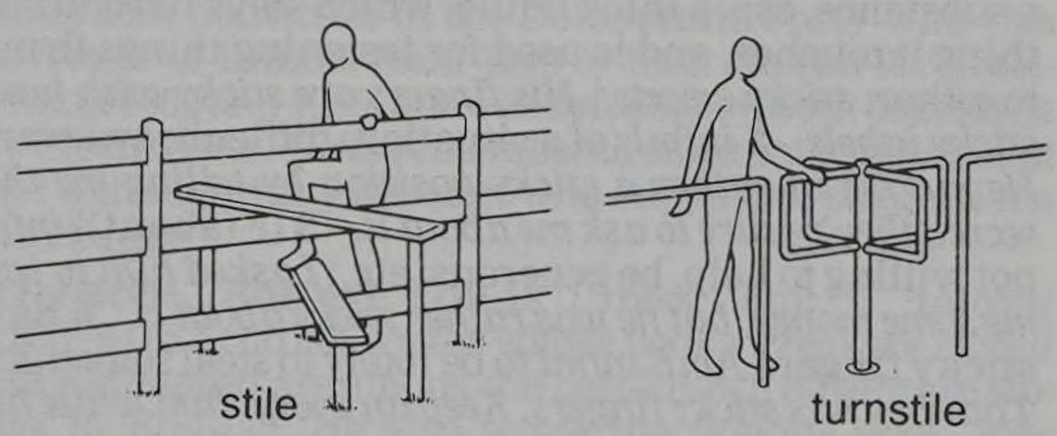
sti·fle /ˈstaɪfəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) be unable to breathe comfortably, esp. because of heat and lack of fresh air: *I'm stifling in here; open a window, someone! | It was a* **stifling (hot)** *day. | stifled to death by the fumes* **2** [T] to prevent from happening or developing: *I was so sleepy I could scarcely stifle a yawn. | to stifle opposition|a revolt | stifled growth*

stig·ma /ˈstɪgmə/ *n* **1** a feeling of shame or dishonour: *There should be no stigma attached to being poor.* **2** the top of the centre part of a flower which receives the POLLEN which allows it to form new seeds —see picture at FLOWER

stig·ma·ta /ˈstɪgmətə, stɪgˈmɑːtə/ *n* [P] (marks similar to) the marks on Christ's body caused by nails, said to have been produced in the same form on the bodies of certain very holy people

stig·ma·tize also **-tise** *BrE* /ˈstɪgmətaɪz/ *v* [T (**as**)] to describe (someone or something) in a very disapproving way: *a country that has been stigmatized as the least creditworthy of the debtor nations | People with handicaps shouldn't be stigmatized.*

stiles



stile turnstile

stile /staɪl/ *n* an arrangement of usu. two high steps which must be climbed to cross a fence or wall outdoors, esp. between fields

sti·let·to /stɪˈletəʊ/ *n* **-tos** a knife used as a weapon, with a very narrow pointed blade; small DAGGER

stiletto heel /·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a high thin heel of a woman's shoe

still[1] /stɪl/ *adv* **1** (even) up to now and at this moment/up to then and at that moment: *Are you still here? You should have gone home hours ago. | When I came back at midnight she still hadn't finished. | Are you on page one still? | Do you still play tennis?* **2** even so; in spite of that: *I know he's admitted putting the money back, but that still doesn't explain how it came to be missing in the first place.| It's raining; still, we must go out.* **3** (used for making comparisons stronger) even: *It's cold now, but it'll be still colder tonight. | The first question is difficult, the second one is more difficult, and the third is still more difficult| more difficult still.* **4** *esp. fml or lit* besides; yet: *He gave still another reason|another reason still.*

▷USAGE Compare **still, already,** and **yet. Still** suggests surprise that something has continued later than someone might expect: *The coffee's* **still** *hot.* **Already** is used to express surprise that something has happened earlier than expected: *This coffee's cold* **already. Yet** is used in negatives and questions to talk about things that (although expected) have not happened or may not have happened: *I haven't had breakfast* **yet.**| *Has Bill arrived* **yet?** It is also used formally instead of **still** in sentences like these: *I have* **still/yet** *to hear the truth.* (=I have not yet been told the truth) | *We may* **still/***even* **yet** *have problems.* (=our problems are not over yet) | *I walked* **still/yet** (=even) *more slowly.*◁

still[2] *adj* **1** [F] not moving: *Keep still while I fasten your shoe.* **2** without wind: *It was a hot still airless day.* **3** [F] quiet; silent; calm: *It was so still you could have heard a pin drop.* **4** [A] (of a drink) not containing gas: *still orange (juice)* **5 still waters run deep** a person who is quiet may have very strong feelings, deep knowledge, etc. —~**ness** *n* [U]

still[3] *v* [T] *esp. fml or lit* **1** to make quiet, calm, or still: *The food stilled the baby's cries.* **2** to put an end to (fears, worries, etc.)

still[4] *n* **1** [C] a photograph of a scene from a (cinema) film **2** [*the*+**of**] *esp. lit* quietness; calm: *In the still of the evening the animals come down to the pool to drink.*

still[5] *n* an apparatus for making alcohol: *They were arrested for running an illegal still.*

still·birth /ˈstɪlbɜːθ, ˌstɪlˈbɜːθ‖-ɜːrθ/ *n* a birth in which the baby is born dead —compare ABORTION, MISCARRIAGE

still·born /ˈstɪlbɔːn, ˌstɪlˈbɔːn‖-ɔːrn/ *adj* born dead: *The child was stillborn.* | (fig.) *a stillborn idea|scheme* (=never started or acted upon)

still life /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* **still lifes** [C;U] a picture of an arrangement of objects, esp. (a) painting of flowers and fruit

stil·ly /ˈstɪli/ *adj poet* quiet; calm

stilt /stɪlt/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] **1** either of a pair of poles, with supporting pieces for the feet, which allow the user to walk raised above the ground: *The clown walked along on stilts.* **2** any of a set of poles supporting a building above ground or water level: *houses on stilts*

stilt·ed /ˈstɪltɪd/ *adj derog* (of a style of writing or speaking) very formal and unnatural —~**ly** *adv*

Stil·ton /ˈstɪltən/ *n* [U] a strong-tasting English cheese which is white with grey-blue marks in it

stim·u·lant /ˈstɪmjʊlənt/ *n* **1** something, esp. a drug, which increases one's power to be active for a time: *Caffeine is a stimulant.* **2** [(**to**)] something which encourages further or greater activity; stimulus: *The lowering of interest rates will act as a stimulant to economic growth.*

stim·u·late /ˈstɪmjʊleɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** [(**to**)] to cause to become more active, grow faster, etc.: *Light stimulates plants|plant growth. | I hoped my warning would stimulate her to greater efforts. | The intention of lowering interest rates is to stimulate the economy.* **2** [+*obj*+*to-v*] to encourage by exciting the mind or interest: *An inspiring conductor can stimulate the singers to excel.* —**-lation** /ˌstɪmjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

stim·u·lat·ing /ˈstɪmjʊleɪtɪŋ/ *adj* **1** that makes one feel active and healthy: *I find swimming the most stimulating form of exercise.* **2** pleasant because suggesting or encouraging new ideas or ways of thinking: *We had a most stimulating conversation.*

stim·u·lus /ˈstɪmjʊləs/ *n* **-li** /laɪ/ [(**to**)] something that causes activity: *Light is a stimulus to growth in plants. | The finding of oil has provided a great stimulus to their economy.*

sting[1] /stɪŋ/ *v* **stung** /stʌŋ/ **1** [T] to wound or hurt with a STING[2] (1): *She was stung on the arm by a bee.* **2** [I] to have or use a STING[2] (1,2): *Some insects sting.* **3** [T] to cause sharp pain to: *The whip stung him. | The smoke is stinging my eyes. |* (fig.) *He was stung by the criticism. |* (fig.) *The severity of their condemnation stung her into action. |* (fig.) *a stinging retort* **4** [I] to feel a sharp pain: *My eyes are stinging from the smoke.* **5** [T (**for**)] *sl* to take too much money from: *They stung him for $1000.* —~**er** *n*

sting[2] *n* **1** a sharp often poisonous organ used as a weapon by some animals, esp. insects: *Does a bee die when it loses*

its sting? **2** a pain-producing substance contained in hairs on a plant's surface: *Many nettles have a sting.* **3** a sharp pain, wound, or mark caused (as if) by a plant or animal: *Rub ointment on to the wasp sting.* | *the sting of salt rubbed into a wound* | *Winning the doubles championship* **took the sting out of** *losing the singles to a younger man.* **4** an act of deceiving someone to gain advantage, esp. carried out by police to trap criminals: *Acting on this tip-off, the FBI launched a sting operation.* **5** '**sting in its/the tail** a part, esp. of a story or suggestion, which is unexpectedly harmful or unpleasant, esp. to the hearer: *The plan has a sting in its tail: it means we lose one day's holiday.*

Sting (1951–) the stage name of a popular music singer who used to sing with the British group **Police**. His real name is **Gordon Sumner**.

stinging net·tle /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a NETTLE plant with leaves that sting if you touch them

sting·ray /ˈstɪŋreɪ/ *n* a large seafish with several sharp points on its back at the base of its tail

stin·gy /ˈstɪndʒi/ *adj* [(**with**)] *infml* having or showing unwillingness to give esp. money; mean: *He's too stingy to give money to charity.* | *a stingy meal* (=a small one of rather bad quality) | *He's stingy with his money.* **–-gily** *adv* **–-giness** *n* [U]

stink[1] /stɪŋk/ *v* **stank** /stæŋk/ *or* **stunk** /stʌŋk/, **stunk** [I] **1** [(**of**)] to give a strong bad smell: *The place stank of decayed fish.* **2** *infml* to have an unpleasant, offensive, or immoral quality: *Frankly, your plan stinks!* (=is very bad) | *This whole affair really stinks.* | *His name stinks.* (=everyone dislikes him)

stink sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** *BrE* ‖ **stink up** *AmE–* to fill with a bad smell: *The burning pan has stunk the house out.* **2** (of something which smells bad) to drive away: *The smell of his cooking stank us all out of the house!*

stink[2] *n* **1** [C] a strong unpleasant smell: *There's a stink of cats in here.* **2** [S (**about**)] *infml* an act of noisy complaining: *If something isn't done soon to put this right I'm going to* **kick up/raise a stink.** (=complain very strongly) | *The scandal caused quite a stink.*

stink-bomb /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small container which gives off an extremely bad smell when it is broken

stink·er /ˈstɪŋkəʳ/ *n BrE old-fash infml* something or someone very unpleasant or bad: *This cold I've got is a real stinker!*

stink·ing[1] /ˈstɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** having a very bad smell **2** *infml* very unpleasant or bad: *I've got an absolutely* **stinking cold.** | *I wish I'd never come to live in this stinking country.* **3** *infml* (used for giving force to an expression, esp. showing annoyance): *You can keep your lousy stinking money; I don't want it!*

stinking[2] *adv infml derog* very (in the phrase **stinking rich**)

stint[1] /stɪnt/ *v* [I (**on**);T (**of**) *usu. in negatives*] to give too small an amount (of): *Don't stint yourself (of anything); take all you want.* | *When you make this recipe, don't stint (on) the butter.* (=use lots)

stint[2] *n* **1** a limited or fixed amount or period of work, esp. shared work: *He did a two-year stint in the army when he left school.* | *Make sure you do your stint; don't leave it all to the others.* **2 without stint** *fml* without limits and esp. very generously: *She gave of her time and money without stint.*

sti·pend /ˈstaɪpend/ *n* money paid regularly for professional duties, esp. to a priest, or to someone on a low income: *a government/student stipend*

sti·pen·di·a·ry[1] /staɪˈpendiəri‖-dieri/ *adj* receiving a stipend

stipendiary[2] also **stipendiary ma·gi·strate** /·ˌ···· ˈ···/– *n BrE* a MAGISTRATE paid by the state

stip·ple /ˈstɪpəl/ *v* [T] to draw or paint (a picture, pattern, etc.) with short strokes or dots instead of lines to make areas of colour, darkness, etc. **–-pling** *n* [U]

stip·u·late /ˈstɪpjʊleɪt/ *v* [T] to state as a necessary condition, esp. of an agreement or offer: *He stipulated payment in advance.* | *I stipulated green, so why have you painted it red?* [+(*that*)] *She stipulated that all her expenses would have to be refunded.*

stip·u·la·tion /ˌstɪpjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] a stating or statement of conditions: *Exact stipulation of your requirements would have made it easier to fulfil your order satisfactorily.* [+*that*] *She agreed, but with several stipulations/with the stipulation that she be allowed a share in the profits.*

stir[1] /stɜːʳ/ *v* **-rr-** **1** [T] to move (esp. something mainly liquid) around and mix something into it with a spoon or similar object: *I've put sugar in your coffee but I haven't stirred it.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to put or mix by stirring: *She stirred the sugar into her tea.* **3** [I;T] *often lit* to make or cause a slight movement (in): *She stirred in her sleep.* | *A light breeze stirred the surface of the lake.* | (fig.) *Interest began to stir among the listeners.* (=they began to be interested) **4** [I (**from**);T] to cause (oneself) to move or wake: *She doesn't stir* (=wake or get up) *before nine o'clock.* | *It's too cold to stir from the fire/the house.* | *If you don't stir yourselves* (=hurry up) *you'll be late!* **5** [T (**to**)] to produce (strong feelings) in (someone): *The story stirred her sympathy.* | *His speech stirred us to action.* – see also STIRRING **6** [I] *infml* to cause trouble between others, esp. by spreading false stories: *He enjoys stirring.* –see also STIRRER **7 stir one's stumps** *BrE infml* to hurry up; act quickly: *If we don't stir our stumps we'll miss that plane.* **8 stir the blood** *esp. lit* to produce strong feelings, esp. of pleasant excitement

stir up *phr v* [T] *derog* **1** (**stir** *sthg.* ↔ **up**) to cause (trouble): *Don't stir up trouble unnecessarily.* | *He was accused of stirring things up/stirring up the dispute.* –see also STIR[1] (6) **2** (**stir** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to upset: *The news really stirred her up.* | *What's he all stirred up about?*

stir[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of stirring: *Give the paint a stir before using it.* **2** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] a slight movement: *There was a stir of excitement/interest as she entered.* **3** [S] (public) excitement: *His resignation caused/created quite a stir.*

stir[3] *n* [(**in**) U] *old-fash sl* prison

stir-fry /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T] to cook by mixing around in very hot oil for a short time: *The Chinese often stir-fry their vegetables.*

Stir·ling[1] /ˈstɜːlɪŋ‖ˈstɜːr-/ a town in central Scotland where the Scottish kings once lived. It has a castle and a university.

Stirling[2]**, James** (1926–) a British ARCHITECT whose buildings at the universities of Leicester, Oxford, and Cambridge caused discussion and disagreement

Stir·ling·shire /ˈstɜːlɪŋʃəʳ‖ˈstɜːr-/ a former COUNTY of central Scotland, now a local government DISTRICT (=area) within the Central REGION

stir·rer /ˈstɜːrəʳ/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a person who likes to cause trouble between others; TROUBLEMAKER

stir·ring /ˈstɜːrɪŋ/ *adj apprec* which produces strong feelings, esp. of excitement; ROUSING: *stirring music* | *a stirring speech* –~**ly** *adv*

stir·rup /ˈstɪrəp‖ˈstɜː-/ *n* a D-shaped metal piece for a rider's foot to go in, hanging from the side of a horse's SADDLE –see picture at HORSE

stirrup cup /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a cupful of strong drink given to someone setting out on a journey, esp. a rider about to start a FOXHUNT

stirrup pump /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a small hand-operated water pump with a D-shaped part that one puts one's foot through to hold it to the ground

stitch[1] /stɪtʃ/ *n* **1** [C] (in sewing) a movement of a needle and thread into cloth at one point and out at another: *I'll just put a couple of stitches in that tear and it'll be as good as new.* **2** [C] a turn of the wool round the needle in knitting (KNIT): *I've* **dropped a stitch.** (=because the wool has come off the needle) **3** [C] the piece of thread or wool seen in place after the completion of such a movement **4** [C;U] a particular style of sewing or knitting: *Purl and plain are the two main stitches in knitting.* | *an embroidery stitch* –see also CHAIN STITCH, CROSS-STITCH **5** [C *usu. pl.*] a piece of thread which sews the edges of a wound together: *The cut needed 15 stitches.* | *When are you having your stitches out?* **6** [S] a sharp pain in the side of one's body, esp. caused by running **7** [S *usu. in negatives*] *infml* clothes: *The maid walked in without knocking, and he* **hadn't got a stitch on.** (=was completely NAKED) **8 in stitches** laughing uncontrollably: *Her jokes had us all in stitches.* **9 a stitch in time (saves nine)** it is better to sort out problems early and quickly, when it is still easy to do so, than to wait until they get worse and become much harder to deal with

stitch[2] *v* [I;T (UP)] to sew; put stitches on to fasten together or for decorative effect: *Will you stitch (up) this hole for me?* | *She stitched the button on the shirt.* | *Stitch the front and back of the dress together.*

stitch sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to complete (something) satisfactorily, esp. so that it cannot be changed: *We've got the whole deal stitched up.*

St Ives /sənt ˈaɪvz‖seɪnt-/ a small town on the coast of Cornwall in SW England, popular with tourists and a centre for water sports and painters

St James's /sənt ˈdʒeɪmzˌz‖seɪnt-/ an expensive area of central London known esp. for its gentlemen's clubs

St James's Pal·ace /· ˌ·· ˈ··/ a royal palace in London

St James's Park /· ˌ·· ˈ·/ a small royal park near Buckingham Palace in London —see colour map on page 817

St John Am·bu·lance /· ˌ· ˈ···/ also **St John's Ambulance**— a British organization whose unpaid members are trained to give FIRST AID to anyone who is hurt or becomes ill. They often attend sports and other public events.

St Kath·a·rine's Dock /sənt ˌkæθərˌnz ˈdɒk‖seɪnt-, -ˈdɑːk/ a place in London where ships used to be unloaded, now a centre for sailing boats and an area attractive to tourists

St Kil·da /sənt ˈkɪldə‖seɪnt-/ a rocky island W of Scotland, famous for its sheep. No one lives there now.

St Kitts-Ne·vis /sənt ˌkɪts ˈniːvˌs‖seɪnt-/ (officially called **St Christopher-Nevis**) an island state in the West Indies in the E Caribbean Sea, consisting of three islands: St Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla; capital Basseterre; population 50,000 (1989)

St Law·rence Riv·er /· ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a N American river which flows from Lake Ontario to the Gulf of St Lawrence and forms part of the border between the US and Canada —see colour map on pages 1374–5

St Lawrence Sea·way /· ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a waterway in N America through the St Lawrence River and all the Great Lakes which can be used by large ships. It was built by the US and Canada and first opened in 1959.

St Le·ger /sənt ˈledʒəʳ‖seɪnt-/ [*the*] a well-known British horse race run in September at Doncaster. It is for three-year-old horses and was established in 1776.

St Lou·is /sənt ˈluːi, -ˈluːˌs‖seɪnt ˈluːˌs/ a city in the S of the US, a port and centre for many industries and also known for its JAZZ and BLUES music —see colour map on pages 1374–5

St Lu·cia /sənt ˈluːʃə‖seɪnt-/ an island nation in the West Indies, one of the Windward Islands, S of Martinique; capital Castries; population 148,000 (1989)

St Mar·tin-in-the-Fields /· ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ a church in London famous for its small ORCHESTRA

St Mi·chael /sənt ˈmaɪkəl‖seɪnt-/ *tdmk* the name used by Marks and Spencer to label their products: *the St Michael brand name*

St Mo·ritz /ˌsæn məˈrɪts‖-məʊ-/ a town in SE Switzerland which is a fashionable and expensive winter sports centre

stoat /stəʊt/ *n* a small brown furry European animal that looks rather like a WEASEL and eats other animals — compare ERMINE

stock[1] /stɒk‖stɑːk/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] also **stocks** *pl.*— a supply of something for use: *We've laid in* (=provided ourselves with) *stocks of food in case there are shortages later.* | *How long will coal stocks last?* | (fig.) *He became well known for his stock of good jokes.* **2** [C;U] (a supply of) goods for sale, esp. in a shop: *Have you any of the blue shirts* **in stock?** | *We haven't much stock left after the Christmas rush.* **3** [C;U] **a** money lent to a government or company, on which interest is paid **b** the ownership of a public company, usu. divided into shares: *She put all her money into government stock(s).* | *He invested his savings in* **stocks and bonds.** **4** [C;U] a liquid made by boiling meat, bones, etc., and used in cooking **5** [U] the degree to which people think about someone or something favourably; popularity: *After it made huge tax cuts, the government's stock rose very high.* **6** [U] farm animals, esp. cattle; LIVESTOCK **7** [C] **a** a plant from which CUTTINGS are grown **b** a stem onto which another plant is grafted (GRAFT) **8** [C;U] the people from whom someone is descended: *She came of (a) peasant|noble stock.* **9** [C] a piece of wood used as a support or handle, esp. for a gun —see picture at GUN **10** [C] a garden flower with a sweet smell **11 take stock (of)** to consider a situation carefully so as to take a decision: *Before rushing into something irrevocable, let's sit back and* **take stock of the situation.** **—see also** STOCKTAKING, STOCKS, FILM STOCK, LAUGHINGSTOCK, **lock, stock, and barrel** (LOCK[1])

stock[2] *v* [T] **1** to keep supplies of, esp. for sale: *That shop stocks all types of shoes.* **2** [(UP, **with**)] to provide with a supply: *We make sure we're always well stocked (up) with candles, just in case.* | *an excellently stocked library*

stock up *phr v* [I (**on, with**)] to provide oneself with a full store of goods: *We've got plenty of fruit and vegetables, but we must stock up on meat.* | *to stock up with food for the holiday*

stock[3] *adj* [A] **1** *usu. derog* commonly used, esp. without much meaning: *They came out with the stock excuse: "operating difficulties".* **2** kept in STOCK[1] (2), esp. because it is of a standard or average type: *shoes in all the stock sizes*

stock·ade[1] /stɒˈkeɪd‖stɑː-/ *n* a wall or fence of upright pieces of wood (STAKES) built for defence

stockade[2] *v* [T] to put a stockade round for defence

stock·breed·er /ˈstɒkˌbriːdəʳ‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* a farmer who breeds cattle

stock·brok·er /ˈstɒkˌbrəʊkəʳ‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* someone whose job is buying and selling STOCKS[1] (3), BONDS[1] (3), and SHARES[1] (2) for other people —**-ing** *n* [U] : *a career in stockbroking* | *a stockbroking firm*

stockbroker belt /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n BrE infml* an area at the edge of a city where rich people live in large houses and from which they travel to their work

stock·car /ˈstɒk-kɑːʳ‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* **1** an ordinary car changed so that it can be used in a special type of rough car race (**stockcar racing**) —compare HOT ROD **2** *AmE* a railway carriage for carrying cattle

stock cube /ˈ· ·/ *n* a solid lump of dried material which when mixed with water forms a STOCK[1] (4)

stock ex·change /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ also **stock market**— *n* (*often caps.*) **1** [C] a place where STOCKS[1] (3), BONDS[1] (3), and SHARES[1] (2) are bought and sold: *The news caused a flurry of activity on the London Stock Exchange.* **2** [*the*] the business of doing this: *She made a tidy profit with some shrewd investments on the Stock Exchange.*

stock·hold·er /ˈstɒkˌhəʊldəʳ‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n AmE for* SHAREHOLDER

Stock·holm /ˈstɒkhəʊm‖ˈstɑːk-/ the capital city of Sweden which is a port and also an important centre of business, art, and education

stock·i·net , -nette /ˌstɒkɪˈnet‖ˌstɑː-/ *n* [U] a soft elastic material, used esp. for BANDAGES

stock·ing /ˈstɒkɪŋ‖ˈstɑː-/ *n* **1** a closely fitting garment for a woman's leg and foot which is usu. made from a thin light material, esp. nylon —compare NYLONS, SOCK, TIGHTS **2** *old-fash or fml* a man's sock **3 in one's stocking/stockinged feet** wearing no shoes: *He was six feet tall in his stocking feet.* (=without shoes to increase his height) —see also BODY STOCKING, CHRISTMAS STOCKING; see PAIR (USAGE) and see colour picture on page 1212

stocking cap /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a woollen hat that fits closely over the head and ears to keep them warm —see picture at HAT

stocking-fill·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ ‖ also **stocking-stuffer** *AmE*— *n* a small inexpensive Christmas present put into a CHRISTMAS STOCKING

stock-in-trade /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] **1** something habitually used, esp. a skill or quality important to a person's job: *A pleasant manner is part of a politician's stock-in-trade.* **2** things used in carrying on a business

stock·ist /ˈstɒkˌst‖ˈstɑː-/ *n BrE* a person or firm that keeps a particular sort of goods for sale: *Our chain of shops are stockists for "Woofo" dog food.*

stock·job·ber /ˈstɒkˌdʒɒbəʳ‖ˈstɑːkˌdʒɑː-/ *n derog in AmE* (in Britain until 1986) a person who buys and sells for a STOCKBROKER; a JOBBER

stock·man /ˈstɒkmən‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a man employed to look after farm animals

stock mar·ket /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* STOCK EXCHANGE

stock mar·ket crash /ˈ· ˌ·· ˌ·/ *n* a sudden failure of the

business of buying and selling on the stock market, which may be caused by loss of confidence, sudden political changes, or other unexpected events: *He lost a lot of money in the recent stock market crash.*

stock·pile[1] /ˈstɒkpaɪl‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* [(**of**)] a large store of goods, weapons, etc. for future use, esp. ones which may become difficult to obtain

stockpile[2] *v* [T] to keep adding to a store of (goods, weapons, etc.) esp. in case of future need: *The two superpowers have been stockpiling nuclear weapons.*

stock·pot /ˈstɒkpɒt‖ˈstɑːkpɑːt/ *n* a container used in cooking for the continuous making of STOCK[1] (4)

Stock·port /ˈstɒkpɔːt‖ˈstɑːkpɔːrt/ a town and area in Greater Manchester, NW England

stock·room /ˈstɒkrʊm, -ruːm‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* a store room, esp. for goods in a shop: *Many of the less often used library books are kept not on the shelves, but in the stockroom.*

stocks /stɒks‖stɑːks/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** (in former times) a wooden frame in which criminals were imprisoned by the feet and sometimes hands in public view —compare PILLORY[1] **2** [(**on**)] a framework in which a ship is held while being built **3 on the stocks** *BrE* being prepared but not yet ready

stock-still /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adv BrE* not moving at all; completely still: *He stood stock-still and listened.*

stock·tak·ing /ˈstɒkˌteɪkɪŋ‖ˈstɑːk-/ *n* [U] **1** *BrE* ‖ **inventory** *AmE*— the making of a list of all the goods that one has a supply of at a particular time, esp. in a shop **2** a careful consideration of the state of one's life, what one wants to do in the future, etc.: *He felt his fortieth birthday was a time for stocktaking.*

Stock·ton /ˈstɒktən‖ˈstɑːk-/, **Earl of** —see Harold MACMILLAN

Stockton-on-Tees /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ also **Stockton**— a town in Cleveland, England, near the mouth of the River Tees

stock·y /ˈstɒki‖ˈstɑː-/ *adj* (esp. of a person or animal) thick, short, and strong; STURDY —**-ily** *adv* : *He was* **stockily built.** (=was stocky) —**-iness** *n* [U]

stock·yard /ˈstɒkjɑːd‖ˈstɑːkjɑːrd/ *n* a place where cattle, sheep, etc. are kept before being taken away, e.g. to a market

stodge /stɒdʒ‖stɑːdʒ/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* **1** food that is heavy and uninteresting and makes one's stomach feel uncomfortably full **2** dull unimaginative writing

stodg·y /ˈstɒdʒi‖ˈstɑː-/ *adj infml* **1** (of food) heavy, filling, and sticky: *stodgy puddings* **2** uninteresting and difficult: *a stodgy book* **3** (of a person) dull and rather formal in manner —**-iness** *n* [U]

sto·ic /ˈstəʊɪk/ *n* someone who shows no feelings of dislike, worry, etc., and does not complain when something unpleasant happens to them —compare EPICUREAN

sto·ic·al /ˈstəʊɪkəl/ also **stoic**— *adj* patient when suffering; like a stoic — ~**ally** /kli/ *adv* : *He accepted his defeat stoically.*

sto·i·cis·m /ˈstəʊɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] the behaviour of a stoic; patience and courage when suffering

stoke /stəʊk/ *v* [T (UP, **with**)] to fill (an enclosed fire) with coal or other FUEL: *He stoked the fire|the furnace (with coal).*

stoke up *phr v* [I (**with, on**)] to stoke a fire, FURNACE, etc.: *Don't forget to stoke up before going to bed.* | (fig.) *Before going out into the cold, we stoked up on* (=filled our stomachs with) *porridge and bacon and eggs.*

stoke·hold /ˈstəʊkhəʊld/ also **stoke·hole** /-həʊl/— *n* a room in a ship where heat and power are produced from FURNACES

Stoke Man·de·ville /ˌstəʊk ˈmændəvɪl/ a hospital in Buckinghamshire, S England, which treats people who have severe injuries (INJURY) to the SPINE

Stoke-on-Trent /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a city in Staffordshire, England on the River Trent. It is the centre of the area known as the Potteries, famous for making pots and dishes since the late 18th century.

stok·er /ˈstəʊkəʳ/ *n* a person who puts FUEL into a FURNACE

Stoker, Bram /bræm/ (1847–1912) an Irish writer remembered esp. for his book *Dracula* —see also DRACULA

Sto·kow·ski /stəˈkɒfski‖-ˈkɔː-/, **Le·o·pold** /ˈliːəpəʊld/ (1887–1977) an American CONDUCTOR, born in London, who helped to introduce modern music to the US. He appeared in films, and directed the music for the Disney film *Fantasia.*

STOL /stɒl‖stɑːl/ *adj* [A] short takeoff and landing; working by means of a system which makes it possible for an aircraft to take off and land by running only a short distance along the ground, on a RUNWAY —compare VTOL

stole[1] /stəʊl/ *past tense of* STEAL

stole[2] *n* a long straight piece of material worn on the shoulders, esp. worn by women with fine clothes for a social occasion: *a fur|silk stole*

sto·len /ˈstəʊlən/ *past participle of* STEAL: *a stolen car*

stol·id /ˈstɒlɪd‖ˈstɑː-/ *adj often derog* showing no excitement when strong feelings might be expected; IMPASSIVE —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness, ~ity** /stəˈlɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

stom·ach[1] /ˈstʌmək/ *n* **1** [C] a baglike organ in the body where food is broken down for use by the body (by the process of DIGESTION) after being eaten: *a pain in the stomach* | *Don't go out to work* **on an empty stomach.** (=without eating) | *The smell of frying onions really* **turns my stomach.** (=makes me feel sick) | (fig.) *a gory film, unsuitable for those with* **delicate stomachs** (=who feel sick easily) **2** [C] the front part of the body below the chest; ABDOMEN: *He sat with his hands folded across his stomach.* | *She was lying on her stomach.* (=face downwards) | *a flat stomach* | *a punch in the stomach* **3** [U+**for**; *usu. in negatives*] **a** desire to eat; APPETITE: *I've no stomach for this heavy food.* **b** liking or desire, esp. for something unpleasant: *He hasn't the stomach|He's got no stomach for a fight.* (=is afraid of fighting) —see also **have butterflies in one's stomach** (BUTTERFLY)

stomach[2] *v* [T *usu. in questions and negatives*] **1** to accept without displeasure; bear; ENDURE: *I can't stomach his jokes.* **2** to eat without dislike or illness: *I can't stomach heavy food.*

stom·ach·ache /ˈstʌmək-eɪk/ *n* [C;U] (a) continuing pain in the (area of the) stomach, esp. because of food passing through the body —see ACHE (USAGE)

stomach pump /ˈ·· ·/ *n* an apparatus with a tube for drawing out the contents of the stomach, esp. after someone has swallowed poison

stomp /stɒmp‖stɑːmp, stɔːmp/ *v* [I+*adv|prep*] *infml* to walk or dance with a heavy step: *He stomped angrily up the stairs.*

stone[1] /stəʊn/ *n* **1** [C] a piece of rock, esp. not very large, either of natural shape or cut out specially for building: *He threw a stone at the dog.* | *The aircraft's engine failed and it dropped like a stone.* (=fell straight down) **2** [U] (*often in comb.*) solid mineral material; (a type of) rock: *The wall was of concrete, faced with stone.* | *stone steps* | (fig.) *He had a heart of stone.* (=was very cruel or unsympathetic) —see also LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE, SOAPSTONE **3** [C] (*pl.* **stone** *or* **stones**) *BrE* a measure of weight: *He weighs 13 stone(s).* | *a 20-stone man* —see TABLE 2 **4** [C] ‖ also **pit** *AmE*— a single hard seed inside some fruits, such as the CHERRY, PLUM, and PEACH —compare PIP[1], and see picture at FRUIT **5** [C] a single PRECIOUS STONE; GEM: *These stones should be worth at least £5000.* **6** [C] a piece of hard material formed in an organ of the body, esp. the BLADDER or KIDNEY —see also GALLSTONE **7 (let he who is without blame) cast the first stone** *phrase from the Bible* it is unfair for people to criticize or blame someone because they have probably done the same thing wrong themselves: *"Are you prepared to cast the first stone?" Suchet demanded of the jury.* **8 stone walls do not a prison make** *quote* a phrase from a poem by Richard Lovelace meaning that one can still feel free even when in prison —see also GRAVESTONE, GRINDSTONE, HAILSTONE, HEADSTONE, KEYSTONE, LODESTONE, MILLSTONE, PAVING STONE, ROLLING STONE, STEPPING-STONE, **get blood from a stone** (BLOOD[1]), **kill two birds with one stone** (KILL[1])

stone[2] *v* [T] **1** to throw stones at (someone or something), esp. as a punishment: *The criminal was stoned to death.* | *The rioters stoned my car.* **2** also **pit** *AmE*— to take the seeds or STONES[1] (4) out of (usu. dried fruit): *stoned raisins* **3 Stone the crows!** also **Stone 'me!** — *BrE old-fash infml* (used for expressing surprise, disbelief, etc.)

Stone Age /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*the*] the earliest known time in human history, when only stone was used for making tools, weapons, etc. —compare BRONZE AGE, IRON AGE

stone-cold /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* extremely cold; as cold as possible: *The body's stone-cold; he must have been dead for hours.* | (fig.) *I haven't had a single drink; I'm* **stone-cold sober.** (=completely sober)

stoned /stəʊnd/ *adj* [F] *sl* **1** under the influence of drugs **2** very drunk

stone-dead /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* completely dead

stone-deaf /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* completely unable to hear

stone fruit /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* (a) fruit of the types which have a STONE[1] (4)

stone-ground /ˈ· ·/ *adj* (of flour) made by crushing between MILLSTONES

Stone·henge /ˌstəʊnˈhendʒ◂‖ˈstəʊnhendʒ/ a group of very large, tall stones arranged in circles which stand on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, S England. They were put there in pre-historic times (about 2500–1500 BC), perhaps as a religious sign or perhaps as a way to study the sun, moon, and stars. They are also thought to have been used for religious ceremonies by Druids, although this is not generally accepted by scientists. Stonehenge is a popular tourist attraction. In the 1980s it also began to attract large groups of people who now come every year on Midsummer Day to celebrate the SUMMER SOLSTICE. The occasion sometimes causes problems between the police and the many people, including hippies (HIPPY) and NEW AGE TRAVELLERS, who come at this time. —see colour map on page 818

stone·less /ˈstəʊnləs/ *BrE* ‖ *pitted AmE–* *adj* (of fruit) without STONES[1] (4) or having had the stones removed

stone·ma·son /ˈstəʊnˌmeɪsən/ also **mason**– *n* a person whose job is cutting stone into shape for building

Stone of Scone /ˌstəʊn əv ˈskuːn/ [*the*] the stone seat once used in ceremonies declaring new kings of Scotland. The stone is kept in Westminster Abbey, London, but has been removed several times by Scottish Nationalists who believe that it should be returned to Scotland.

stone's throw /ˈ· ·/ *n* [S (AWAY, **from**)] a short distance: *Our house is only a stone's throw from the station.*

stone·wall /ˌstəʊnˈwɔːl/ *v* [I] **1** to intentionally delay or block movement or development in a discussion or argument, esp. by unnecessary talk, or by refusing to answer questions **2** to refuse to obey an order, esp. from the police or other authority **3** (of a BATSMAN in cricket) to play slowly and carefully —**~er** *n*

Stonewall a British organization which tries to end DISCRIMINATION against HOMOSEXUAL men and women by lobbying (LOBBY[2]) MPs to change the laws that affect homosexuals. —compare OUTRAGE

stone·ware /ˈstəʊnweəʳ/ *n* [U] pots and other containers made from a special hard clay that contains FLINT (=a hard stone)

stone-washed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (usu. of DENIM garments) washed by beating with stones, which has the effect of softening the material

stone·work /ˈstəʊnwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] the parts of a building made of stone, esp. those decorated with special shapes

stonk·ered /ˈstɒŋkəd‖ˈstɑːŋkərd/ *adj AustrE or NZE infml* very tired

stonk·ing /ˈstɒnkɪŋ‖ˈstɑːnk-/ *adj BrE sl* amazingly good: *He scored a stonking goal.*

ston·y /ˈstəʊni/ *adj* **1** containing or covered with stones: *stony soil* **2** cruel; showing no pity or feeling: *a stony stare | a stony heart | Their pleas were heard in stony silence.* **3 fall on/upon stony ground** (of a request, joke, piece of advice, etc.) to be ignored or get an unfavourable reaction: *I put the new ideas to my boss, but I'm afraid they fell upon stony ground.* —**-ily** *adv*

stony broke /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *adj* [F] *BrE infml* having no money at all

stood /stʊd/ *past tense & participle of* STAND

stooge /stuːdʒ/ *n* **1** the partner in a stage COMEDY act whose purpose is to appear foolish, esp. by being made fun of by the other partner **2** *infml derog* a person who habitually does what another person wants

stool /stuːl/ *n* **1** a seat without a supporting part for the back or arms: *a bar stool | a piano stool* —see picture at KITCHEN **2** *fml or tech* a piece of solid waste matter (FAECES) passed from the body —see also FOOTSTOOL, **fall between two stools** (FALL[1] (15))

stool·pi·geon /ˈstuːlˌpɪdʒ$^{l}_{ə}$n/ ‖ also **stool·lie** /ˈstuːli/ *AmE–* *n sl usu. derog* a person, e.g. a criminal, who helps the police to trap another; INFORMER

stoop[1] /stuːp/ *v* [I] **1** [(DOWN)] to bend the upper body forwards and down: *I had to stoop (down) to go through the low doorway.* **2** [I] to stand habitually with the back and shoulders bent forwards: *He used to stoop, but he did exercises to make his shoulders straight.*

stoop to sthg. *phr v* [T] to fall to a low standard of behaviour by allowing oneself to do (something): *She'd stoop to anything to get her own way.* [+*v-ing*] *I know you'd never stoop to lying.*

stoop[2] *n* [S] a habitual position with the shoulders bent forwards or rounded: *He's developed a stoop in his old age.*

stoop[3] *n AmE dial* a raised area at the door of a house, esp. one big enough for people to sit on; PORCH

stooped /stuːpt/ *adj* having a stoop: *a stooped old man*

stoop·ing /ˈstuːpɪŋ/ *adj* (esp. of the shoulders or upper back) rounded or bent forwards

stop[1] /stɒp‖stɑːp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [I;T] to (cause to) no longer move or no longer continue an action or activity: *Don't jump off the train before it stops.* | *Do the buses stop* (=so that people can get on/off) *at the market?* | **Stop, thief!** (=stop running) | *I think my watch has stopped.* (=is no longer working) | *They* **stopped dead in their tracks** (=very suddenly) *when they saw the bull charging towards them.* | *He put his hand out to stop the bus.* | *How do you stop the machine?* | *Apply pressure on the wound to stop the bleeding.* | *The dispute has stopped production of the newspaper.* [+*v-ing*] *We stopped working at teatime.* | *Stop making such a noise!* **2** [T (**from**)] to prevent: *I'm going, and you can't stop me.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *Her parents are trying to stop me seeing her.* | *You must stop her (from) telling them.* **3** [I;T] to (cause to) end: *The rain has stopped.* | *The referee stopped the fight.* **4** [I] to pause; interrupt a journey, activity, etc. before continuing: *I stopped at the first word I didn't recognize.* | *We stopped for tea at a village café.* | *He stopped for a moment to tie up his shoelace.* **5** [I] *esp. BrE* to remain; stay: *I've such a lot of work to do – I'll have to stop in tonight.* (=not go out) | *We stopped up* (=did not go to bed) *until three o'clock.* | *We invited him to tea and he stopped for supper!* | *I won't take my coat off – I'm not stopping.* **6** [T (UP)] to block: *There's something inside stopping (up) the pipe.* | (fig.) *a bribe large enough to stop his mouth* (=persuade him not to tell secrets) —compare UNSTOP **7** [T] to prevent from being given or paid: *The bank stopped his cheque because he had no money in his account.* **8** [T] (in music) to put the fingers on (holes or strings) in order to change the note played by an instrument **9 stop at nothing (to do something)** to be ready to take any risk (in order to do something) **10 stop short of (doing)/short at something** to decide against doing (a wrong, dangerous, or serious action); not do: *She wouldn't stop short of stealing* (=she would steal) *if she thought it would help her children.* —**~pable** *adj*

▷ USAGE Note the patterns in *He* **stopped** *to listen* (=he paused in order to listen), *He* **stopped** *listening* (=he didn't listen any more), and *He* **stopped** *me (from) listening* (=he didn't allow me to listen).◁

stop around *phr v* [I] *infml, esp. AmE* to make a short visit, esp. to someone's home

stop by (sthg.) *phr v* [I;T] to make a short visit to (esp. someone's house): *Why don't you stop by (my house) on your way home?*

stop sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to make (the opening of a camera LENS) smaller so that less light gets in when one takes a photograph

stop in *phr v* [I (**at**)] *infml* to make a short visit, esp. to someone's home

stop off *phr v* [I] *infml* to interrupt a journey to make a short visit to another place, to rest, to visit friends, etc.: *On our way to Scotland we stopped off in York to do some sightseeing.* | *Let's stop off for a drink.*

stop over *phr v* [I] to make a short stay before continuing a journey: *We stopped over in Dubai on our way to India.* —see also STOPOVER

stop[2] *n* **1** an act of stopping or the state of being stopped: *We went straight there; we didn't make any stops on the way.* | *Work on the project has* **come to a stop.** (=has stopped) **2** a place beside a road where public vehicles stop for passengers, esp. a BUS STOP: *I'm getting off at the next stop.* | *This is your stop.* (=where you need to get off)

3 *esp. BrE* a dot as a mark of PUNCTUATION, esp. a FULL STOP **4** the part of a camera which moves to control the amount of light entering **5** a set of pipes on an ORGAN (4) which provide notes with a particular type of sound quality **6** also **plosive** *–tech* a consonant sound, such as /p/or /k/, made by stopping the flow of air completely and then suddenly letting it out of the mouth. **7 pull out all the stops** to make the greatest possible effort: *He pulled out all the stops to complete the work in time.* **8 put a stop to** to stop (esp. an undesirable activity): *The new law put a stop to all the tax evasion that had been going on.* –see also DOORSTOP

stop·cock /ˈstɒpkɒk‖ˈstɑːpkɑːk/ also **turncock** *BrE*– *n* a VALVE which can be opened or closed to control the flow of water in a pipe

Stopes /stəʊps/, **Ma·rie** /ˈmɑːri‖məˈriː/ (1880–1958) an English scientist who established the first British birth-control CLINIC in London in 1921 and introduced sex education in her books *Married Love* and *Wise Parenthood*. At the time, her work was strongly criticized and opposed by the medical establishment and by the Catholic Church.

stop·gap /ˈstɒpgæp‖ˈstɑːp-/ *n* something or someone that fills a need for a time, until a better one can be found: *They've lent us an old TV as a stopgap until our new one's delivered.* | *a stopgap secretary* | *a stopgap measure*

stop-go /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] *BrE infml derog* of or being a time in which periods of activity and inactivity quickly follow each other, esp. in the operation of a country's money supply, industry, etc.: *the government's stop-go policy of alternate inflation and deflation*

stop·light /ˈstɒplaɪt‖ˈstɑːp-/ *n AmE for* TRAFFIC LIGHT

stop·o·ver /ˈstɒpˌəʊvəʳ‖ˈstɑːp-/ *n* a short stay between parts of a journey, e.g. on a long plane journey: *On the London-Singapore flight there is a stopover at Bombay.* –compare STAGING POST; see also STOP **over**

stop·page /ˈstɒpɪdʒ‖ˈstɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] (a) stopping, esp. of work: *All these stoppages* (=esp. strikes) *are costing the company a fortune.* **2** [C;U] *esp. BrE* an amount officially subtracted from one's pay, esp. before one gets it: *After all stoppages he takes home £120 a week.* **3** [C;U] a blocked place or condition: *a stoppage of air* | *a stoppage in the pipe|artery*

Stop·pard /ˈstɒpɑːd‖ˈstɑːpɑːrd/, **Dr Mir·i·am** /ˈmɪriəm/ (1937–) a British doctor and well-known writer and broadcaster on health and child care

Stoppard, Tom (1937–) a British writer of plays, born in Czechoslovakia, whose plays include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Jumpers*, *Travesties* and *The Real Thing*

stop·per /ˈstɒpəʳ‖ˈstɑː-/ *n* an object which fits in and closes the opening of esp. a bottle or JAR –**stopper** *v* [T (UP)]

stop·ping /ˈstɒpɪŋ‖ˈstɑː-/ *BrE* ‖ **local** *AmE adj* [A] (of a train) that stops at all stations

stop press /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ [*the*] late news added to a newspaper after the main part has been printed

stop·watch /ˈstɒpwɒtʃ‖ˈstɑːpwɑːtʃ, -wɔːtʃ/ *n* a watch which can be stopped and started at any time, so that the time taken by an event or action can be measured exactly: *We timed the race with a stopwatch.*

stor·age /ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the act of storing: *storage of perishable produce* | *storage space* | *Check and follow storage instructions.* **2** a place for storing goods: *His furniture is* **in storage** *while he finds a new house.* **3** the price paid for having things, e.g. furniture, stored –see also COLD STORAGE

store[1] /stɔːʳ/ *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to make and keep a supply of (something) for future use: *The squirrels are busy storing (up) nuts so they will have food in the winter.* | (fig.) *You're storing up trouble for yourself by not admitting the truth straightaway.* | (fig.) *Why don't you tell him instead of storing up grudges against him?* **2** [(AWAY)] to put or keep in a special place while not in use: *While she was abroad she stored her furniture in a warehouse.* | *A mass of data is stored in the computer.* **3** [(**with**)] to fill with supplies: *The ship was stored with provisions.*

store[2] *n* **1** [(**of**)] a supply for future use: *This animal makes a store of nuts for the winter.* | *a vast store of statistical data* | *adding some items to my food store* **2** a large building in which articles are stored; WAREHOUSE: *a grain store* **3** a large shop: *a furniture store* –see also CHAIN STORE, DEPARTMENT STORE **4** *esp. AmE* a shop: *the local village store* | *a liquor|bargain|variety store* **5** [(**of**)] a large number or amount: *That's just one from his store of silly jokes.* **6 in store: a** *BrE* being stored: *My furniture's in store while I'm abroad.* **b** about to happen: *There's a shock in store for him.* | *We have a few surprises in store.* **7 set** ... **store by** to consider that (something) is of the stated amount of importance: *He sets great|little store by his sister's advice.* –see also STORES

store brand /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* OWN LABEL

store de·tec·tive /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* a person employed in a large shop to watch customers and stop them stealing goods –compare SHOPWALKER

store·front /ˈstɔːfrʌnt‖ˈstɔːr-/ *n AmE* (a building having) the front of a store facing a street: *storefronts for rent* | *a party set up in an empty storefront*

storefront church /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n AmE* a church operating in a storefront. Storefront churches are typically EVANGELICAL churches in poor parts of towns and cities and usu. have fairly loud and unusual religious services

store·house /ˈstɔːhaʊs‖ˈstɔːr-/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ **1** [(**of**)] *apprec* a place or person full of information: *The library is a storehouse of knowledge.* | *He is a storehouse of useful ideas.* **2** a STORE[2] (2)

store·keep·er /ˈstɔːˌkiːpəʳ‖ˈstɔːr-/ *n AmE for* a SHOPKEEPER

store·room /ˈstɔːrʊm, -ruːm/ *n* a room where goods are kept until needed

stores /stɔːz‖stɔːrz/ *n* **stores** **1** [P] supplies of things in continuous military use, such as clothing, food, and EQUIPMENT: *ship's stores* | *The quartermaster is in charge of stores.* **2** [*the*+S+*sing.|pl. v*] the building, room, etc. in an army camp, ship, etc. where these are kept: *He works in the quartermaster's stores.* **3** [C+*sing.|pl. v*] *BrE* a shop in which many different types of goods are sold: *There's a small general stores in the village where you can get anything from stamps to potatoes.*

sto·rey *BrE* ‖ **story** *AmE* /ˈstɔːri/ *n* **1** any of the levels on which a building is built: *There are three storeys including the ground floor.* **2 -storey** also **-storeyed** *BrE* ‖ **-storied** /stɔːrid/ *AmE*– having the stated number of storeys: *a five-storey(ed) office building*

Storey, David (1933–) an English writer of plays and NOVELS. His first successful novel was *This Sporting Life* in 1960, and his many plays include *Home* and *The Changing Room*.

stor·ied /ˈstɔːrid/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] *lit* being the subject of many stories; famous

stork /stɔːk‖stɔːrk/ *n* a large white bird with a long beak, neck, and legs.

►CULTURAL NOTE In former times, young children were told that new babies were brought by a stork. –see picture at WATER BIRD◄

Stork *n* [U] *BrE tdmk* a type of MARGARINE, known esp. for its television advertisements which tested people on whether they could taste the difference between Stork and butter

storm[1] /stɔːm‖stɔːrm/ *n* **1 a** a violent weather condition with strong wind, rain, and often lightning; RAINSTORM: *crops damaged by heavy storms* | *winds of storm force* **b** (*in comb.*) a violent weather condition with strong wind and the stated thing: *a snowstorm|thunderstorm|sandstorm* **2** [(**of**)] a sudden violent show of feeling: *The shocking revelations caused quite a storm.* | *a storm of tears|protest* **3** [+**of**] a loud angry expression: *The decision was greeted with a storm of abuse|booing.* **4 storm in a teacup** *BrE infml* a lot of worry and nervous annoyance over something unimportant **5 take by storm: a** to defeat by a sudden violent attack: *The soldiers took the city by storm.* **b** (of a performer or performance) to gain the great approval of: *Her singing took New York|the theatre by storm.*

▷USAGE **Storm** is the general word for rough, and especially windy weather conditions. A large, violent storm with a circular wind is called a **cyclone** in the tropics, a **typhoon** in the western Pacific, and a **hurricane** in the western Atlantic Ocean. A smaller storm of this kind is called a **whirlwind**. A storm of this kind with a narrow path is called a **tornado** or **twister** if it goes over land and a **waterspout** if it goes over water. –see also RAIN (USAGE), WIND (USAGE)◁

storm[2] *v* **1** [T] to attack with sudden violence: *Our armies stormed the city.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to go with violent anger: *She stormed out of the room.*

storm·bound /ˈstɔːmbaʊnd‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* prevented from travelling by stormy weather

storm cloud /ˈ· ·/ *n* a dark cloud which may bring rain: (fig.) *The storm clouds (of war) are gathering over Europe.* (=there is a threat of war)

Stor·min' Nor·man /ˌstɔːmɪn ˈnɔːmən ‖ ˌstɔːrmɪn ˈnɔːr-/ a NICKNAME for the American General Norman Schwarzkopf, who led the soldiers of the West in the Gulf War

Stor·mont /ˈstɔːmənt‖ˈstɔːr-/ a castle in Belfast which was the Parliament House of Northern Ireland. An independent Parliament for Northern Ireland was established there in 1921 but following violence in 1969, it was ended by the British government, who re-introduced direct rule from London in 1972. In the 1970s and 1980s there were a few attempts to re-establish a parliament at Stormont but these failed.

storm troop·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* (esp. in Germany before and during World War 2) a soldier in a private political army that habitually used cruel and violent methods: *using storm trooper tactics*

storm window /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a window fitted to the outside of an existing window to provide additional protection from severe weather. Storm windows are usu. used in winter, and replaced with SCREENS in the summer: *We'd better put up the storm windows this weekend.*

storm·y /ˈstɔːmi‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* **1** having a storm or storms: *stormy weather | a stormy day | a stormy sky* (=suggesting that there will be a storm) **2** full of noisy expressions of usu. angry feeling; TEMPESTUOUS: *It was a stormy meeting which could easily have ended in a fight. | a stormy love affair* —**-ily** *adv*

stormy pet·rel /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **storm petrel** /ˈ· ˌ··/— *n* a small black and white seabird of the north Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea

Stor·no·way /ˈstɔːnəweɪ‖ˈstɔːr-/ a town on the E coast of the island of Lewis on the Outer Hebrides, Scotland

sto·ry[1] /ˈstɔːri/ *n* **1** [(**about**)] an account of events, real or imagined: *She wrote a story about space exploration. | a true-life love story | the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs | He promised to tell the children a story as soon as they'd got into bed. | Before we decide who was responsible, we want to hear his* **side of the story.** (=how he, as opposed to the other person, describes what happened) | *Well, that's my story,* (=that's what *I* say happened) *and I'm sticking to it. | the remarkable* **success story** *of how a woman gave up her ten-year addiction to drugs and alcohol. | There's no need to be frightened; it's only a story.* (=it's only about imaginary events) | *... And then there's the question of what happened to him afterwards. But* **that's another story.** (=which I shall not describe now) | (fig.) *Crime is increasing in the US, and* **it's the same story** *in Britain.* (=it's increasing there too) | (fig.) *It's* **the same old story** (=the usual undesirable situation); *mounting debts and not enough money to pay them with.* **2** what people are saying; RUMOUR: *The* **story goes** (=people are saying) *that he's run off with his secretary, but I can't believe it, can you?* **3** [(**on**)] an article in a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *I'm afraid we can't print your story on the fraud scandal; it might be libellous. | What's this week's* **cover story?** (=the story which is concerned with the picture on the cover of a magazine) **4** *infml euph* (used by and to children) a lie: *The teacher told him off for* **telling stories.** —see also SHORT STORY, TALL STORY, **the same old story** (SAME); see HISTORY (USAGE)

story[2] *n AmE for* STOREY

sto·ry·book /ˈstɔːrɪbʊk/ *adj* [A] as perfectly happy as in an imaginary story for children: *a storybook romance/ending*

story line /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the events in a film, book, or play; PLOT[1] (1)

sto·ry·tell·er /ˈstɔːriˌtelə^r/ *n* **1** a person who is telling a story, esp. to children **2** *infml euph* a person, esp. a child, who tells lies

stoup /stuːp/ *n* **1** a container used in former times for drinking from: *a stoup of wine* **2** a container for holy water (=blessed by a priest) inside the entrance to a church

stout[1] /staʊt/ *adj* **1** *often euph* rather fat and heavy: *She became stout as she grew older.* —see FAT (USAGE) **2** *esp. lit or pomp* strong; thick; too solid to break: *He cut a stout stick to help him walk.* **3** [A] brave; determined; RESOLUTE: *a stout supporter of the team* —**~ly** *adv* : *He defended himself stoutly against their accusations.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

stout[2] *n* [U] a strong dark beer

stout·heart·ed /ˌstaʊtˈhɑːtɨd◂‖-ɑːr-/ *adj esp. lit* brave and determined

stove[1] /stəʊv/ *n* **1** an enclosed apparatus for cooking or heating which works by burning wood, coal, oil, gas, etc., or by electricity —compare COOKER, FIRE[1] (3), HEATER, OVEN, and see picture at KITCHEN **2** *AmE* the top of a cooker: *The eggs are frying on the stove.*

stove[2] *past tense and participle of* STAVE

stove·pipe hat /ˌstəʊvpaɪp ˈhæt/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a man's tall silk hat

stow /stəʊ/ *v* [T (AWAY)] to put or pack away, esp. tidily or so as not to be in the way: *The ship's cargo is stowed in the hold. | You can stow your bags (away) under the desk for the time being. |* (fig.) *They must have been hungry; they certainly stowed away* (=ate) *a huge supper.*

stow away *phr v* [I] to hide on a ship or plane in order to make a free journey or escape unseen: *He stowed away on a cargo ship bound for Boston.* —see also STOWAWAY

stow·age /ˈstəʊɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the act of stowing **2** the space allowed for keeping goods, esp. on a ship: *There's not enough stowage.*

stow·a·way /ˈstəʊəweɪ/ *n* a person who hides on a ship or plane to get a free journey or escape —see also STOW **away**

Stowe /stəʊ/, **Har·ri·et Beech·er** /ˈhæriət ˈbiːtʃə^r/ (1811–1896) an American writer most famous for her book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* which was highly influential in encouraging anti-slavery feelings in the North before the Civil War. In the 20th century the book has been criticized for the way it represents relations between black and white people and "Uncle Tom" has become an expression of disapproval —see also UNCLE TOM

St Pan·cras /sənt ˈpæŋkrəs‖seɪnt-/ one of the main-line stations in London

St Pe·ters·burg /sənt ˈpiːtəzbɜːg‖seɪnt ˈpiːtərzbɜːrg/ a Russian city on the Baltic, known as Petrograd and then Leningrad when Russia was part of the USSR

Stra·chey /ˈstreɪtʃi/, **Lyt·ton** /ˈlɪtn/ (1880–1932) an English writer known esp. for his short, humorous and CRITICAL accounts of well-known 19th century personalities in *Eminent Victorians*

strad·dle /ˈstrædl/ *v* [T] **1** to have one's legs on either side of: *He sat straddling the fence. | to straddle a horse* **2** to be or happen on either side of (something), rather than in the middle or on just one side: *The village straddles the frontier.*

Strad·i·va·ri·us /ˌstrædɨˈveəriəs, -ˈvɑːr-/ also **Strad** /stræd/*infml*— *n* **-ri·i** /riːi/ a high-quality VIOLIN made by the Italian maker Antonio Stradivari (1644–1737)

strafe /strɑːf‖streɪf/ *v* [T] to attack with heavy gunfire from a low-flying aircraft

strag·gle /ˈstrægəl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *usu. derog* **1** to move, grow, or spread loosely and untidily, without ordered shape: *straggling branches | Houses straggled across the countryside.* **2** to move singly or in small groups away from a main group: *The last few marathon runners straggled in four hours after the winners had arrived.* —**-gler** *n* : *We'll have to wait for the stragglers to catch up.*

strag·gly /ˈstrægəli/ *adj* growing or lying in a loosely spread out, untidy way: *straggly hair | straggly branches*

straight[1] /streɪt/ *adj* **1** not bent or curved: *A straight line is the shortest distance between two points. | Blond hair is more often straight than curly. | a chair with a straight back* **2** level or upright: *Put the mirror straight. | Stand up straight. | Is my tie straight?* **3** [F] tidy; neat; in order: *Put your hair straight. | I'm trying to get the house straight before the visitors arrive.* **4** [(**with**)] honest, open, and truthful: *Are you being straight with me? | I couldn't get a straight answer to a straight question.* —compare LEVEL **5** [F] correct: *Just to* **put the record straight,** *this is what really happened. | Let me* **set you straight about** *that.* (=make sure that you understand

the true facts) **6** [A] simple and with nothing added; concerning only two things or people: *The workers were given a straight choice between taking a pay cut and losing their jobs.* | *a straight swap* —see also STRAIGHT FIGHT **7** [A; after *n*] in regular or unbroken order; CONSECUTIVE: *After 15 straight wins our team finally lost.* | *a two-hour straight live concert* **8** also **neat**— (of alcohol) without added water: *a straight whisky* | *I drink my whisky straight.* **9** [A] serious; of the usual kind; CONVENTIONAL: *the straight theatre* | *I prefer straight plays to comedies or musicals.* | *He's wild but his sister is really straight.* | *The whole business was straight; nothing bizarre happened.* **10** (of the face) not laughing; with a serious expression: *We couldn't keep our faces straight when he fell over the dog.* **11** [F] *infml* in a satisfactory situation, esp. because not owing any money **12** *sl* HETEROSEXUAL **13** not a drug-user —~**ness** *n* [U]

straight[2] *adv* **1** [+*adv*/*prep*] in a straight line: *The book you're looking for is straight in front of you.* **2** [+*adv*/*prep*] directly and esp. without delay: *Go straight to school without stopping.* | *He went/got straight to the point.* (=said what he thought at once) | *We'll meet in the hall straight after breakfast.* **3** clearly: *I've had too much to drink; I can't see straight.* | *I'm too tired to think straight.* | (*infml*) *So I* **told him straight**, (=using plain language) *if you don't shut up, I'll punch you on the nose.* **4 go straight** to stop being a criminal **5 straight from the shoulder** *infml* expressed plainly and directly without trying to avoid unpleasantness **6 straight off** *infml* at once; without delay **7 straight out** *infml* without trying to hide one's meaning; clearly: *I told him straight out what I thought of him.* —see also STRAIGHT-OUT **8 straight up** *BrE infml* (used esp. in statements or questions about whether something is true): *"That car cost me £900." "Straight up?"* (=Is that true?) *"Straight up!"* (=Yes.)

straight[3] *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] BrE ‖ **straightaway** *AmE*— a straight part or place, esp. on a race track: *The runners came up the finishing straight.* **2** *sl* **a** a HETEROSEXUAL **b** a person who is not a drug-user

straight and nar·row /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] *euph or humor* an honest life, not that of a criminal (esp. in the phrases **keep to/stray from the straight and narrow**)

straight-arm /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T] *AmE* (esp. in American football) to protect oneself from (an opponent or attack) by holding the arm straight out: *We straight-armed our way through the crowd.*

straight·a·way[1] /ˌstreɪtəˈweɪ/ *adv* at once; without delay; IMMEDIATELY: *I'll do it straightaway if you're in a hurry.* | *"Can you order me a taxi, please?" "Straightaway, sir."*

straightaway[2] *n AmE for* STRAIGHT[3] (1)

straight·edge /ˈstreɪt-edʒ/ *n* a measure or ruler which is also used for testing whether things are level or completely flat

straight·en /ˈstreɪtn/ *v* [I;T (OUT, UP)] to (cause to) become straight or level: *There's a series of bends, then the road straightens out.* | *Straighten your hat.*

straighten sthg./sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to settle (something) by removing the confusions or difficulties in it; put right: *His business affairs are in a terrible mess; they'll take ages to straighten out.* | *to straighten out a misunderstanding* **2** *infml* to remove difficulties, esp. bad behaviour or worries, in the life of: *Perhaps a talk with the priest will help to straighten Jack out.*

straighten up *phr v* **1** [I] to get up from a bent-over position **2** [T] (**straighten** sthg.↔**up**) to make tidy: *Straighten your room up.* **3** straighten out

straight-faced /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* showing no sign of amusement on the face —~**ly** /-ˈfeɪstli, -ˈfeɪsɨdli/ *adv*

straight fight /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a competition, esp. in an election, between only two people or parties

straight·for·ward /ˌstreɪtˈfɔːwəd◂‖-ˈfɔːrwərd◂/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) honest and open; not hiding anything: *At least he was quite straightforward about it; you can't say he was trying to deceive you.* **2** not difficult to understand or explain; simple: *The question's quite straightforward; why can't you answer it?* **3** [A] not limited or lessened by any conditions; complete: *a straightforward refusal* —~**ly** *adv*

straight·jack·et /ˈstreɪtˌdʒækɨt/ *n* a STRAITJACKET

straight man /ˈ· ·/ *n* a performer whose job is to set up situations that allow his companion(s) to make jokes

straight-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] *esp. AmE* direct in speech; not trying to: *I gave him a straight-out answer.* —see also **straight out** (STRAIGHT[2])

straight shoot·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE infml apprec* a person who goes after what he wants in a very direct way

straight tick·et /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* (in elections in the US) a vote in which the voter has voted for all the CANDIDATES of one party: *I vote the straight democratic ticket.* —compare SPLIT TICKET

straight·way /ˈstreɪt-weɪ/ *adv old use or bibl* at once; without delay

strain[1] /streɪn/ *v* **1** [T] to damage or weaken (oneself or a part of the body) through too much effort or pressure: *You'll strain yourself/strain a muscle trying to lift that heavy weight.* | *Don't strain your eyes trying to read in this dim light.* **2** [T] to separate (a liquid and solid) by pouring them into a container with very small holes, esp. a strainer: *Strain the vegetables and serve immediately.* | *Has this tea been strained?* **3** [T] to make (something) go beyond acceptable limits: *I think it's rather straining the truth to say he's handsome.* | *My patience has been strained to the limit(s).* **4** [T] to use to the greatest possible degree: [+*obj*+*to-v*] *I strained my ears to try and hear what they were saying.* **5** [I] to make (too) great efforts: *a writer straining after effect* (=trying too hard to gain an effect) [+*to-v*] *There was so much noise that I had to strain to hear what he was saying.* | *The singer had to strain to reach the high notes.* **6** [I (**against**)] *esp. lit* to press oneself closely: *He strained against the prison bars/against the ropes which tied him.* **7 strain every nerve** *esp. lit* to try as hard as possible

strain at sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to stretch or pull tightly: *The boats were straining at their moorings.* **2 straining at the leash** eager to be free, esp. so that one can do what one wants —compare **champing at the bit** (BIT[2])

strain[2] *n* [C;U] **1 a** the condition of being tightly pulled or stretched: *The rope broke* **under the strain. b** the force causing this: *The strain on these massive cables supporting the bridge is enormous; scientists use a* **strain gauge** *to measure it.* **2** a state in which one is greatly troubled by anxieties and difficulties: *The additional work* **put a great strain on** *him.* | *She's* **under** *a lot of* **strain** *at the moment; her daughter's very ill.* | *the* **stresses and strains** *of business life* **3** a state of difficulty, distrust, opposition, etc. between people or groups; TENSION: *the current strain in relations between the two countries* **4** damage to a part of the body caused by too great effort and often stretching of muscles: *back strain* —compare SPRAIN

strain[3] *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a breed or type of plant or animal: *This strain (of wheat) can grow even during a cold spring.* **2** [S (**of**)] also **strains** *pl.*— *esp. lit* a tune; notes of music: *a pleasant strain* | *We heard* **the strains of** *the violin/a well-known song.* **3** [S (**of**)] a particular quality which tends to develop, esp. one passed from parents to children: *There's a strain of madness in her family.* **4** [S] *fml* the meaning of what one says or writes or the way in which it is expressed: *He had appeared to be most sympathetic, but his comments in private were in a very different strain.*

strained /streɪnd/ *adj* **1** not natural in behaviour; unfriendly; TENSE: *His manner was strained.* | *a strained smile* | *Relations between them are rather strained.* **2** showing the effects of worry or tiring work: *You're looking a bit strained.*

strain·er /ˈstreɪnəʳ/ *n* an instrument of netlike material in the shape of a small bowl which keeps back solids when a liquid is poured through it

strait[1] /streɪt/ also **straits** *pl.*— *n* (*often cap. as part of a name*) a narrow passage of water between two areas of land, usu. connecting two seas: *the Straits of Dover* —see also STRAITS

strait[2] *adj esp. bibl* narrow and therefore usu. difficult to pass through

strait·ened /ˈstreɪtnd/ *adj fml, usu. euph* difficult because lacking money: *They lost most of their money and now live* **in straitened circumstances**.

strait·jack·et , straight·jack·et /ˈstreɪtˌdʒækɨt/ *n* **1** a garment which holds the arms close into the body, preventing the wearer, esp. a mad person, from making violent movements **2** *derog* something which prevents free development: *the straitjacket of censorship*

strait·laced /ˌstreɪtˈleɪst◂/ *adj derog* having severe, rather old-fashioned ideas about morals: *She's too straightlaced to laugh at rude jokes.*

straits /streɪts/ *n* [P] an extremely difficult situation, such as illness or lack of money: *Now that father's lost his job, we're* **in dire/desperate straits**.

strand[1] /strænd/ *n* [(**of**)] a single thin thread, wire, string, piece of hair, etc.: *Many strands are twisted together to form a rope.* | *a strand of cotton* | (fig.) *strands of an argument* | (fig.) *At the end of the story the writer brings together all the strands of the plot.*

strand[2] *n esp. poet* a shore or BEACH beside a sea, lake, or river

Strand [*the*] a famous street and small area in central London. The Savoy Hotel is here, and also many theatres.

strand·ed /ˈstrændɨd/ *adj* in a very unfavourable position or situation, esp. alone among dangers and unable to get away: *The tide had gone out, leaving the boat stranded on the rocks.* | *There I was, (left) stranded in a foreign country with no passport or money.*

strange /streɪndʒ/ *adj* **1** difficult to explain or understand; unusual or surprising: *He's always here; it's strange you've never met him.* | *He's got a strange habit of stroking his nose when he's trying to think.* | *They put her strange behaviour down to severe emotional pressure.* | *a strange noise|smell|situation* | *One of Dali's strangest paintings.* | *She found it strange to think of her son getting married.* | *It's funny you should mention it; strange to say, I was wondering the same thing myself.* **2** [(**to**)] not known or experienced before; unfamiliar: *all alone in a strange place|country* | *The street he stood in was strange to him.* | *Tell your children not to talk to strange men.* **3** [F+**to**] *fml* lacking knowledge or experience (in); not used to: *She was strange to their customs, and found everything very confusing.* —~**ly** *adv*: *He's often here, but strangely (enough), I've never met him.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

strange bed·fel·lows /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [P] people working together who would not usu. be expected to be friendly to each other, used esp. in the phrase, "Politics makes strange bedfellows"

strang·er /ˈstreɪndʒəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who is unfamiliar: *They never talk to strangers.* | *"Have you met each other before?" "No, we're strangers."* | *A complete|perfect stranger waved to me in the street.* | (*lit*) *She is* **no stranger to** (=very familiar with) *misfortune.* **2** a person in a new or unfamiliar place: *"Can you tell me the way to the station?" "I'm sorry, I'm a stranger here myself."* **3 Hello, stranger!** *infml* (a greeting used to someone one has not seen for a long time)

Strangers' Gal·le·ry /ˈ·· ˌ···/ [*the*] (in Britain) the part of the House of Commons and the House of Lords open to the public

Strange·ways /ˈstreɪndʒweɪz/ a prison in Manchester where prisoners took control and did much damage in 1990, as a protest against poor conditions in British prisons

stran·gle /ˈstræŋgəl/ *v* [T] to kill by pressing on the throat with the hands, a rope, etc. to stop breathing: *He strangled his victim with a nylon stocking.* | (fig.) *This government's policies are slowly strangling the economy.* —**-gler** *n*

stran·gle·hold /ˈstræŋgəlhəʊld/ *n* **1** a strong hold round the neck, so as to stop someone breathing **2** [(**on**)] *derog* a strong control or influence which prevents free movement, development, etc.: *A few large firms have a stranglehold on the production of this essential commodity.*

stran·gu·late /ˈstræŋgjʊleɪt/ *v* [I;T] *med* to (cause to) become tightly pressed so as to stop the flow of blood: *a strangulated hernia*

stran·gu·la·tion /ˌstræŋgjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U] the act of strangling or state of being strangled: *The cause of death was strangulation.*

strap[1] /stræp/ *n* **1** [C] a narrow band of strong material, such as leather, used as a fastening or support: *a watch strap* | *Fasten the straps round the case.* —see also CHINSTRAP, SHOULDER STRAP **2** [*the*+S] *BrE* the giving of punishment by hitting with a thick narrow piece of leather

strap[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to fasten in place with one or more straps: *She strapped the bag onto her back.* | *Make sure you're firmly strapped in* (=with a SEAT BELT) *before the plane takes off.* **2** [(UP) *often pass.*] *BrE* || **tape** *AmE*— to tie BANDAGEs *firmly round* (a part of the body that has been hurt, esp. a limb)

strap·hang·ing /ˈstræpˌhæŋɪŋ/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* **1** supporting oneself while standing in a moving bus, underground train, etc., by holding on to a strap which hangs from the roof **2** *derog* commuting (COMMUTE[1] (1)) —**-er** *n*

strap·less /ˈstræpləs/ *adj* (of a dress, etc.) leaving the shoulders completely bare: *a strapless evening gown*

strapped /stræpt/ *adj* [F (**for**)] *infml* having little or no money: *I can't pay you; I'm rather strapped (for cash).*

strap·ping /ˈstræpɪŋ/ *adj infml* big and strong: *a fine, strapping man*

Stras·berg /ˈstræzbɜːg‖-bɜːrg/, **Lee** (1901–82) an American acting teacher and director who introduced the acting ideas of Stanislavsky to the US. From 1948, he was head of the Actors' Studio in New York City.

Stras·bourg /ˈstræzbɜːg‖ˈstrɑːsbɜːrg/ a city in NE France which is the meeting place of the European Parliament. Its historic buildings include the CATHEDRAL and university.

stra·ta /ˈstrɑːtə‖ˈstreɪtə/ *n* **1** *pl. of* STRATUM **2** (*pl.* **stratas**) *nonstandard for* STRATUM (3)

strat·a·gem /ˈstrætədʒəm/ *n fml* a trick or plan to deceive an enemy or to gain an advantage

stra·te·gic /strəˈtiːdʒɪk/ also **stra·te·gi·cal** /-kəl/— *adj* **1** (done) for reasons of strategy; being part of a plan, esp. in war: *a strategic decision* | *We made a strategic withdrawal, so that we could build up our forces for a renewed attack.* | *strategic bombing* **2** useful or right for fulfilling a particular purpose: *Policemen were stationed at strategic points round the football ground in case of crowd trouble.* | *A package ideal for those who want to go for long-term strategic investment rather than short-term profits.* **3** used in fighting wars: *secret purchases of strategic materials* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*: *The trap was strategically placed just at the point where the mouse always came out.*

Strategic Arms Lim·i·ta·tion Talks /·ˌ·· · ··ˈ·· ˌ·/ also **SALT**— [*the* + P] talks between the USSR and the US to limit the number of weapons kept by each country. Two agreements were reached in 1974 (SALT I) and in 1979 (SALT II). In 1980, the US refused to accept the agreement because the USSR's army entered Afghanistan by force.

Strategic Arms Re·duc·tion Talks /·ˌ·· · ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ also **START**— *n* [*the* + P] talks between the USSR and the US to reduce the number of NUCLEAR weapons kept by each country. The talks started in 1982, and in 1987 the US President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev signed an agreement to destroy all intermediate-range nuclear warheads.

Strategic De·fense I·ni·tia·tive /·ˌ·· ·ˈ· ·ˌ···/ also **SDI, star wars**— an American government plan which aims to destroy enemy MISSILEs in space introduced by President Reagan in 1983 —see also STAR WARS

strat·e·gist /ˈstrætɨdʒɨst/ *n* a person skilled in planning, esp. of military movements

strat·e·gy /ˈstrætɨdʒi/ *n* **1** [U] **a** the art of planning in advance the movements of armies or forces in war: *a master of strategy* **b** skilful planning generally **2** [C] a particular plan for gaining success in a particular activity, e.g. in a war, a game, or a competition, or for personal advantage: [+**for**/*to-v*] *I think we have worked out a strategy for dealing with|to deal with this situation.* | *Our strategy was to play defensively for most of the game, with sudden attacking bursts.* | *marketing strategies*

Strat·ford-on-A·von /ˌstrætfəd ɒpɒn ˈeɪvən‖-fərd ɔpɑːn-/ a town in Warwickshire, central England, on the River Avon. It is famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare and very popular with tourists. Places of interest include the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the house where Shakespeare lived with his wife, Anne Hathaway. —see colour map on page 818

Strath·clyde /stræθˈklaɪd/ a REGION in central Scotland whose centre is the city of Glasgow

strat·i·fi·ca·tion /ˌstrætɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of stratifying or state of being stratified **2** [C;U] **a**

arrangement in strata (STRATUM) **b** the positioning of different strata in relation to one another

strat·i·fy /ˈstrætɪfaɪ/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to arrange in separate levels or strata (STRATUM): *a stratified society | stratified rock*

strat·os·phere /ˈstrætəsfɪəʳ/ *n* [*the*+S] the outer part of the air which surrounds the Earth, starting at about ten kilometres (six miles) above the Earth

stra·tum /ˈstrɑːtəm‖ˈstreɪ-/ *n* **-ta** /tə/ **1** a band of rock of a certain kind, esp. with other types above and below it in the ground **2** a level of earth, such as one where remains of an ancient civilization are found by digging **3** [**(of)**] a level of people in society; social class: *Such inequalities are found in every stratum|in all strata of society.*

Strauss /straʊs/, **Jo·hann** /ˈjəʊhæn‖-hɑːn/ (1825–99) an Austrian COMPOSER who wrote more than 400 waltzes (WALTZ) including the very popular *Blue Danube* and *Tales from the Vienna Woods*

Strauss, Richard (1864–1949) a German COMPOSER and CONDUCTOR known esp. for his OPERAS, e.g. *Der Rosenkavalier*

Stra·vin·sky /strəˈvɪnski/, **I·gor** /ˈiːgɔːʳ/ (1882–1971) an American musician, born in Russia, remembered esp. for his BALLET music including *The Firebird*, *Petrouchka* and *The Rite of Spring*. His work is known for being modern and very original.

straw /strɔː/ *n* **1** [U] dried stems of grain plants, such as wheat, used for animals to sleep on, and for making articles such as baskets and mats, etc.: *a straw hat* **2** [C] a single dried stem of wheat, rice, etc. **3** [C] a thin tube of paper or plastic for sucking up liquid: *drinking fruit juice through a straw* **4** [S *usu. in questions and negatives*] something of the smallest value: *I don't* **care|give a straw for** (=don't care at all about) *your opinion.* **5 straw in the wind** a sign of what may happen: *These stories of arms build-up along the border are straws in the wind.* **6 the straw that breaks the camel's back** a small problem or unpleasant event which, when added to existing troubles, is too much to bear –see also LAST STRAW, MAN OF STRAW, **make bricks without straw** (BRICK), **clutch at straws** (CLUTCH)

straw·ber·ry /ˈstrɔːbəri‖-beri, -bəri/ *n* **1** [C] (a plant which grows near the ground and has) a soft red juicy fruit with small pale seeds on its surface: *strawberries and cream | strawberry jam* –see picture at BERRY **2** [U] a dark pink colour

strawberry blonde /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* (a woman with hair of) a light reddish yellow colour

straw boat·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **boater**– *n BrE* a stiff hat made of straw usu. worn in summer.

▶CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, straw boaters are usu. connected with the upper classes and with boating on rivers, esp. in a PUNT. They are worn by boys at some PUBLIC SCHOOLS. –see picture at HAT◀

straw boss /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a person who manages a few other workers and also does the same job as them

strawberry mark /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a reddish area of skin present from birth; BIRTHMARK

straw-col·oured /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* light yellow

straw man /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a MAN OF STRAW (2)

straw poll /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **straw vote**– *n* an unofficial test of opinions before an election, to see what the result is likely to be

stray[1] /streɪ/ *v* [I (**from**)] to wander away, esp. from the right or proper path or place: *Some of the sheep have strayed (from the flock|into the neighbouring fields). | a warship that had strayed into the enemy's territorial waters* | (fig.) *Her thoughts strayed from the subject.*

stray[2] *n* **1** an animal lost from its home or having no home: *She always wanted a cat so she has adopted a stray.* **2** a child without a home (in the phrase **waifs and strays**) **3** *infml* someone or something which has got separated from others of the same kind

stray[3] *adj* [A] **1** wandering; lost: *stray cats* **2** separated from others; met by chance: *He was hit by a stray bullet.| You may find a few stray examples of it, but it's not very common. | a few stray clouds|hairs*

streak[1] /striːk/ *n* **1** [**(of)**] a thin line or band, different from what surrounds it: *Streaks of grey began to appear in her black hair. | a streak of lightning* **2** [**(of)**] a quality of someone's character which is different from their other or usual qualities, usu. in a bad way: *She's got a mean|stubborn streak.* **3** a limited period during which one has repeated experiences of the same kind, esp. success or failure: *I'd hit a|I was on a* **winning|losing streak,** *and kept winning|losing a lot of money betting on horses. | a gambler's* **lucky streak** **4 like a streak of lightning** *infml* very quickly: *He disappeared round the corner like a streak of lightning.*

streak[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*] to move very fast: *The cat streaked across the road with the dog behind it.* **2** [T] to cover with streaks: *His face was streaked with dirt|tears.* **3** [I] to run in a public place as a streaker

streak·er /ˈstriːkəʳ/ *n* a person who runs across a public place with no clothes on as a way of attracting attention

streak·y /ˈstriːki/ *adj* marked with streaks: *The dye hadn't worked well, and had left her hair rather streaky. |* **Streaky bacon** (*BrE*) *has lines of fat among the meat.*

stream[1] /striːm/ *n* **1** a natural flow of water moving across country between banks, narrower than a river: *a mountain stream* **2** [**(of)**] something flowing or moving forwards continuously: *A steady stream of visitors came to the house. | a stream of traffic* | (fig.) *a stream of abuse* –see also BLOODSTREAM, MAINSTREAM **3** [*usu. sing.*] (the direction of) a current of water: *We were just floating along with the stream.* | (fig.) *He hasn't the courage to go against the stream (of public opinion).* –see also DOWNSTREAM, UPSTREAM **4** *esp. BrE* (in schools) a level of ability within a group of pupils of the same age: *She's in the top stream|the A stream.* **5 on stream** *tech* in(to) production: *The supply of oil from the North Sea has now come on stream.*

stream[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*] to flow fast and strongly; pour out: *The pipe broke and water streamed onto the floor.* – compare TRICKLE **2** [I+*adv|prep*] to move in a continuous flowing mass: *The crowd streamed out of the football ground.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*] to be blown so as to stretch out at full length: *The wind caught her scarf|hair, and it streamed out behind her.* **4** [I (**with**)] to give out a continuous flow: *Her eyes were streaming with tears. | I've got a* **streaming cold.** (=with liquid flowing from the nose) **5** [T] BrE‖**track** *AmE* to group (schoolchildren) in STREAMS[1] (4)

stream·er /ˈstriːməʳ/ *n* **1** a long narrow piece of coloured paper, used esp. for decoration at parties **2** a long narrow flag

stream·line /ˈstriːmlaɪn/ *v* [T] **1** to form into a smooth shape which moves easily through water or air: *a streamlined racing car* **2** to make (a business, organization, etc.) more simple and therefore more effective in working: *How can we streamline our production processes?*

stream of con·scious·ness /ˌ· · ˈ···/ *n* [(*the*) U] (esp. in literature) (the expression of) thoughts and feelings exactly as they pass through the mind, rather than giving them the ordered structure usual in books, etc.

Streep /striːp/, **Mer·yl** /ˈmerɪl/ (1949–) an American film actress whose many successful films include *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and *Out of Africa* –see colour picture on page 228

street /striːt/ *n* **1** (*written abbrev.* **St** *BrE*‖**St.** *AmE*) a road with houses or other town buildings on one or both sides: *101 Oxford Street, London | a street map of Brighton* (=showing the names and positions of all the roads) | *street musicians* (=performing out of doors in towns) – see also HIGH STREET **2 be on|walk the streets: a** to be homeless **b** *euph* to be a PROSTITUTE **3 not in the same street (as)** *infml* not of the same good standard (as) **4 'streets ahead (of)** *infml* much better (than) **5 up|down one's street|alley** in one's area of interest or activity: *You ought to tell John about that new book – it'll be right up his street.* –see also BACK STREET, EASY STREET, SIDE STREET, **man in the street** (MAN[1] (17))

▷USAGE 1 A **street** is in the middle of a town, and usually has shops and other buildings. A **road** can be in the town or the country, and usually leads to another town, or to another part of a town. 2 British speakers often say *in a* **street|road** where American speakers say *on a* **street|road:** *the shops in the High* **Street** (*BrE*) | *the stores on Main* **Street** (*AmE*) | *a house in Bristol* **Road** (*BrE*) | *a house on Boston* **Road** (*AmE*) – see also WAY (USAGE)◁

street·car /ˈstriːtkɑːr/ *n AmE for* TRAM

Streetcar Named De·sire /ˌ·· ˌ· ·ˈ·/, **A** a play by Tennessee Williams made into a film with Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh in 1951

street-cred·i·bil·i·ty /ˌ· ··ˈ···/ also **street-cred** /ˈ· ·/ *infml*– *n* [U] popular acceptance and approval among young people: *Sooty was declared non-sexist today – he's now a bear with street-cred and a New Man approach.* –**ble** /ˈ· ˌ···/ *adj*

Street-Por·ter /ˌ· ˈ··/, **Jan·et** /ˈdʒænɪt/ (1946–) an English television broadcaster and producer known esp. for her Cockney ACCENT, her appearance, and her programmes for young people

street val·ue /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] the price for which something, esp. an illegal drug, can be sold informally in the street, in a PUB, etc., rather than in a shop: *This heroin has a street value of £500.*

street·walk·er /ˈstriːtˌwɔːkəʳ/ *n old-fash* a PROSTITUTE who stands or walks about in the street to attract customers

street·wise /ˈstriːtwaɪz/ *adj infml* clever and knowledgeable enough to manage in the hard, sometimes dangerous, world of the city streets: *She is too young and not street-wise enough to live in London on her own.*

Strei·sand /ˈstraɪsænd/, **Bar·bra** /ˈbɑːbrə‖ˈbɑːr-/ (1942–) an American singer and actress who has performed on stage and in many successful film musicals including *Hello Dolly*, *The Way We Were*, and *A Star is Born*

strength /streŋθ, strenθ/ *n* **1** [C;U] the quality or degree of being strong or powerful: *He does weight-training to build up his (physical) strength.* | *She succeeded by strength of will alone.* | *Our financial independence enables us to argue from a position of strength.* | *The enemy withdrew after we made a show of strength.* | *Her strength as a novelist lies in her perceptiveness and compassion.* | *the current strength of the dollar* | *You can get this drug in various strengths.* **2** [C (**of**)] something providing force or power: *The great strength of my plan is that it's so cheap compared to the others.* | *the strengths and weaknesses of her argument* **3** [U] force, esp. measured in numbers: *His supporters came* **in strength** (=many came) *to see the fight.* | *The police force is 400 men* **below strength,** (=less than the number of members it should have) *but next year it should be* **at full strength. 4 from strength to strength** with continuing and growing success: *Our new company is going from strength to strength.* **5 on the strength** *BrE infml* being a member of an organization, company, armed force, etc.: *"Are you on the strength here?" "No, I'm just helping out for a week."* **6 on the strength of** because of; persuaded or influenced by: *I bought it on the strength of his advice.* –compare WEAKNESS

strength·en /ˈstreŋθən, ˈstrenθən/ *v* [I;T] to become or make strong or stronger: *They strengthened the wall with metal supports.* | *The wind strengthened during the night.* | *If we could find some eyewitnesses it would greatly strengthen your case.* | *The dollar has strengthened against other currencies.* (=increased in value) | *Their opposition only strengthened her resolve.*

stren·u·ous /ˈstrenjuəs/ *adj* **1** taking or needing great effort or strength: *a strenuous climb* | *strenuous exercise* | *He made strenuous attempts to stop her.* **2** very active: *a strenuous supporter|opponent of women's rights* –~**ly** *adv* : *She strenuously denied their allegations.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

strep throat /ˌstrep ˈθrəʊt/ *n* [C;U] *AmE infml* an infected, very painful throat condition caused by streptococcus

strep·to·coc·cus /ˌstreptəˈkɒkəs‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* **-ci** /kaɪ/ a bacterium growing in chains that causes various infections, esp. in the throat (**strep throat**) –**-cal** *adj*

strep·to·my·cin /ˌstreptəʊˈmaɪsɪn, -tə-/ *n* [U] a strong drug used in medicine for killing harmful bacteria

stress[1] /stres/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a state of worry resulting from) pressure caused by the problems of living, too much work, etc.: *the* **stresses and strains** *of a busy business executive's life* | *stress-related diseases such as heart disease* | *He's* **under** *a lot of* **stress** *because his wife is very ill.* | *I think her headaches are caused by stress.* **2** [C;U (**on**)] force of weight caused by pressure: *The vehicles passing over put stress on the old bridge.* | *This instrument measures the stresses in an aircraft's wing.* **3** [U (**on**)] a sense of special importance; EMPHASIS: *The teacher* **laid** *particular* **stress** *on the need for accuracy.* **4** [C;U (**on**)] the degree of force put on a part of a word when it is spoken, or a note in music, making it seem stronger than other parts or notes: *In "under", the main stress is on "un".* –compare INTONATION; see also PRIMARY STRESS, SECONDARY STRESS

stress[2] *v* [T] **1** to give particular importance to; mention strongly; EMPHASIZE: *He stressed the need for careful spending if they were not to find themselves without enough money.* **2** to give force to (a word or word-part) when speaking: *The word "machine" is stressed on its second syllable.*

stressed out /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj infml* suffering greatly from STRESS[1] (1): *He's really stressed out because he has so many financial problems.*

stress·ful /ˈstresfəl/ *adj* full of problems that cause great worry: *a stressful week*

stress man·age·ment /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* [U] any system of recognizing, controlling, and reducing one's reactions to the stresses of everyday life, esp. those connected with the business world. Such a system usu. includes various methods of relaxation.

stress mark /ˈ· ·/ *n* a mark (ˈ *or* ˌ) showing that STRESS[1] (4) comes on a certain part of a word

stretch[1] /stretʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) become wider or longer: *I tried stretching the shoes, but still my feet wouldn't fit into them.* | *The sleeves of my jersey have stretched so much that they cover my hands.* **2** [T (OUT)] to cause to reach full length or width: *He stretched out his arm to try and reach the apple.* | *She stretched the rope between two poles.* | *The painter stretched the canvas on a frame.* | (fig.) *I'm not stretched enough* (=made to use all my abilities) *by my work.* | (fig.) *You're stretching my patience to the limit.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*] to spread out in space or time: *The forest stretched for miles.* | *The desert stretched away into the distance|as far as the eye could see.* | *The project should have been finished last year, but now it looks as though it will stretch (on) into next year.* | (fig.) *I'm afraid our financial resources don't stretch to* (=we can't afford) *a second car.* **4** [I *not in progressive forms*] to be elastic: *Don't worry if this sweater seems small, the material stretches.* **5** [I (OUT)] to straighten the limbs or body to full length: *She got out of bed and stretched.* | *The cat stretched out in front of the fire.* **6** [T] *infml* to cause to go beyond natural or proper limits: *Just this once I'll stretch the rules and let you leave work early.* | *The work's going to be a little late, but fortunately they're prepared to stretch the deadline.* | *I think to call her beautiful is stretching it a bit, don't you?* (=claiming too much, because she is not very beautiful) | *His story of his part in the rescue stretched their credulity.* (=they could hardly believe it) **7 stretch a point** to allow a rule to be broken in a small way, a usual practice to be slightly changed, etc.: *We'll stretch a point and let the baby travel free, though you should have bought him a ticket.* **8 stretch one's legs** *infml* to have a walk, esp. after sitting for a time –~**able** *adj*

stretch[2] *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of stretching, esp. of the body: *I got out of bed and had a good stretch.* **2** [U] the (degree of) ability to increase in length or width; elasticity: *For tracksuits you need material with plenty of stretch.*| *stretch fabrics* | *stretch socks* **3** [C (**of**)] a level area or SECTION of land or water: *They built their holiday home on a very pleasant stretch of coastline.* | *You get a lot of accidents on this stretch of road.* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] (a part of a race track considered as) a particular stage of a race: *The runners are now coming into* **the final/finishing/homestretch. 5** [C (**of**)] a continuous period of time: *She did a stretch of ten years service abroad.* | *They had to remain standing for hours* **at a stretch.** (=without stopping) **6** [C *usu. sing.*] *sl* a period of time in prison: *a five-year stretch for robbery* **7 at full stretch** using or having to use all one's abilities: *Hospital services are at full stretch to cope with the emergency.* **8 by a stretch of the imagination** (*usu. in negatives*) even if one tried very hard to believe it: *That couldn't be true, by any stretch of the imagination.*

stretch cov·er·alls /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n AmE for* BABYGRO

stretch·er /ˈstretʃəʳ/ *n* a covered frame on which a sick or wounded person can be carried by two people

stretcher-bear·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a person, esp. a soldier, who carries one end of a stretcher

stretcher par·ty /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of stretcher-bearers, esp. on a battlefield

stretch lim·o /ˈstretʃ ˌlɪməʊ/ also **stretch lim·ou·sine** /ˈ· ˌ···, ˈ· ··ˌ·/ *fml n* a very large comfortable car (LIMOUSINE) that has been made even longer to give passengers in the back seat lots of room

stretch·mark /ˈstretʃmɑːk‖-mɑːrk/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a line or other mark left on a woman's stomach after she has given birth to a child

stretch·y /ˈstretʃi/ *adj* (of a material) elastic; able to stretch: *stretchy cotton* —**-iness** *n* [U]

strew /struː/ *v* **strewed, strewn** /struːn/ *or* **strewed** [T] *esp. lit* **1** to scatter irregularly: [+*obj*+**over**/**on**] *There were papers strewn all over the floor*/*strewn on the bed.* [+*obj*+**with**] (fig.) *conversation liberally strewn with* (=full of) *swear words* **2** *lit* to lie scattered over; BESTREW (1): *Flowers strewed the path.* | *the rubbish-strewn streets* —see SPREAD (USAGE)

strewth /struːθ/ *interj BrE old-fash sl* (an expression of surprise, annoyance, etc.)

stri·at·ed /straɪˈeɪtɪd‖ˈstraɪeɪtɪd/ *adj tech* having narrow lines, bands of colour, etc.; STRIPED

stri·a·tion /straɪˈeɪʃən/ *n tech* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] a STRIPE (1) or line **2** [U] the condition of being marked with STRIPES or lines

strick·en /ˈstrɪkən/ *adj rather fml* (*often in comb.*) showing the effect of trouble, anxiety, illness, etc.: *Supplies of food and medicine were rushed to the stricken city.* | *stricken with polio* | *stricken by doubts* | *grief-stricken* —see also PANIC-STRICKEN

strict /strɪkt/ *adj* **1 a** [(**with**)] severe and demanding obedience, esp. in rules of behaviour: *a strict teacher* | *They are very strict with their children.* —compare SEVERE (2) **b** which must be obeyed: *He had strict instructions not to tell anyone.* **2 a** exact, perhaps too narrowly exact: *a strict interpretation of the facts* **b** complete: *a strict teetotaller* | *He told me about it* **in strict secrecy**/**in the strictest confidence.** —**~ly** *adv*: **Strictly (speaking),** *spiders aren't really insects, although many people think they are.* | *Strictly between ourselves* (=no one else must know), *I hear he's resigning.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

stric·ture /ˈstrɪktʃəʳ/ *n* [(**on**)] *fml* **1** [*often pl.*] an expression of blame: *The judge was severe in his strictures on their behaviour.* **2** something that strictly limits, morally or physically: *Because of our religion, there are certain strictures on our behaviour.*

stride[1] /straɪd/ *v* **strode** /strəʊd/, **stridden** /ˈstrɪdn/ [I+*adv*/*prep*] to walk with long steps or cross with one long step: *She strode purposefully up to the door and knocked loudly.* | *He strode across the stream.*

stride[2] *n* **1** a long step in walking **2** an advance or development: *The firm has* **made** *great*/*considerable* **strides** *since it was taken over by the larger company.* **3 get into one's stride** to begin to work or do something effectively and well as a result of experience, interest, etc. **4 take something in one's stride** to accept and deal with an unpleasant or unfamiliar situation without difficulty or loss of control: *Some people would have been shocked and unable to work, but he takes everything in his stride.* —see also STRIDES

stri·dent /ˈstraɪdənt/ *adj derog* with a hard sharp usu. loud sound or voice, esp. containing a high unpleasant note: *a strident voice*/*speaker* | (fig.) *The unions are getting more strident in their demands.* —**~ly** *adv* —**-dency** *n* [U]

strides /straɪdz/ *n* [P] *infml, esp. AustrE* trousers

strid·u·late /ˈstrɪdjʊleɪt‖-dʒe-/ *v* [I] *tech* (of certain insects) to make a rough high sound by rubbing parts of the body together —**-lation** /ˌstrɪdjʊˈleɪʃən‖-dʒə-/ *n* [U]

strife /straɪf/ *n* [U] *rather fml* trouble between people; CONFLICT: *family strife* | *a time of political strife* | *bombing and looting in the strife-torn city*

strike[1] /straɪk/ *v* **struck** /strʌk/ **1** [T] *rather fml* to hit sharply or forcefully: *She struck him with her hand.* | *The mountaineer was struck on the head by a falling stone.* | *The ship struck a rock and started to sink.* | *The tower was struck by lightning.* | *A tornado struck the farm.* | [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *He struck his opponent a tremendous blow on the jaw.* | (fig.) *to strike a blow for freedom* **2** [I (OUT)] to make an attack, esp. with sudden force: *He leapt back as the animal struck.* | *He struck out at his attackers.* | *Lightning struck in several places but no one was hurt.* | (fig.) *We were sailing along without a care in the world when suddenly disaster struck; we hit an iceberg.* | (fig.) *a wage agreement which* **strikes at the heart of** (=severely damages) *the government's economic policy* **3** [T+*obj*+*adj*; *usu. pass.*] to cause to suddenly or unexpectedly become: *They were struck dumb with amazement.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cause a sudden feeling of (fear, worry, etc.): *The prospect struck terror into their hearts.* **5** [T] to light by hitting against a hard surface: *She struck a match.* **6** [I;T] **a** to make known (the time), esp. by the hitting of a bell: *The clock has just struck.* | *The clock struck five (o'clock).* **b** (of time) to be made known in such a way: *Five o'clock has just struck.* **7** [I (**for**)] to stop working because of disagreement: *workers striking for better working conditions* | *the right to strike* | *striking miners* **8** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *esp. fml or tech* to remove (something written or printed), esp. officially: *His name was struck off*/*from the list of candidates.* —see also STRIKE **off,** STRIKE **out** (1) **9** [T] to find (a material, place, etc.), esp. suddenly: *They struck oil.* | *After tramping for miles through the forest, we finally struck the road.* | *After months of successful work we struck some difficulties.* —see also STRIKE **on** **10** [T] to produce or reach (agreement, equality, etc.): *It's hard to* **strike a balance** *between caution and boldness.* | *I'll* **strike a bargain** *with you: you go and buy the food and I'll cook it.* **11** [T (**as**)] to have a particular (strong) effect on; IMPRESS: *How does the room strike you?* | *He was struck by her air of confidence.* | *It struck me as rather odd that he refused to give his name.* **12** [T *not in progressive forms*] to come suddenly to the mind of; OCCUR **to**: *It struck me that you might like some coffee, so I've brought some up.* | *A terrible thought struck me – had I locked the door?* **13** [T] to stand, sit, etc. with one's body in (a particular position): *He struck the customary pose of a well-known politician, and everyone laughed.* | (fig.) *Both sides were more interested in* **striking attitudes** (=drawing attention to their perhaps insincere views) *than in having a meaningful discussion.* **14** [T] *tech* to produce (a coin or similar object): *A commemorative medal has been struck for the occasion.* **15** [T] *tech* to lower (sails or a flag) **16 strike a chord** to remind someone of something, esp. because of similarity **17 strike a note of** to express (a need for): *His new book strikes a warning note*/*a note of warning against government overspending.* | *I should like to strike a note of caution.* **18 strike camp** to take down tents when leaving a camping place **19 strike it rich** *infml* to become suddenly rich **20 strike while the iron's hot** [*usu. imperative*] to make use of a favourable occasion as soon as it comes, without losing valuable time **21 within ˈstriking distance (of)** very near (to) —see also STRICKEN

▷ USAGE **Strike** meaning "to hit" is more formal than **hit,** and **hit** is more common in conversation: *Go on!* **Hit** *him!* | *The police report stated that the man had been* **struck** *by a car.*◁

strike sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to cause to suddenly die or become seriously ill: *It's tragic that such a talented young artist was* **struck down in his prime.** | *He was struck down by multiple sclerosis.*

strike sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** (sthg.) *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to remove (someone or their name) from (an official list): *The doctor was struck off (the medical register)* (=he was no longer allowed to practise as a doctor) *for professional misconduct.*

strike on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to discover; HIT **on**: *I've struck on a plan.*

strike out *phr v* **1** [T] (**strike** sthg. ↔ **out**) also **strike through**– *fml* to remove (unwanted writing) by drawing a line through it; CROSS **out**: *Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms ... (Strike out whichever does not apply.)* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to go determinedly in the stated direction, esp. by swimming: *He struck out towards the ship.* | *The hikers struck out across country.* **3** [I] to start an independent life or a new activity: *She left the family business and* **struck out on her own.** **4** [T] (**strike** sbdy. ↔ **out**) in BASEBALL to put (a player) out as a result of throwing three STRIKES[2] (4) **5** [I] to end one's turn at BAT by swinging at the ball three times without a successful hit: *He struck out in the second inning.* **6** [I] *AmE sl* to be unsuccessful at something, esp. at winning sexual favour from someone

strike up (sthg.) *phr v* **1** [I;T] to begin playing or

singing: *The band struck up (a march) and the parade began.* **2** [T (**with**)] to start to make (a friendship or conversation): *They struck up an acquaintance (with each other) on the plane.*

strike[2] *n* **1** a time when no work is done because of disagreement, e.g. over pay or working conditions: *The whole workforce is/has gone* **(out) on strike.** | *an unofficial strike* | *a strike ballot* | *The union has voted to take strike action.* —compare LOCKOUT; see also GENERAL STRIKE, HUNGER STRIKE **2** an attack, esp. by aircraft whose bombs hit the place attacked: *retaliatory strikes on/against enemy bases* —see also FIRST STRIKE **3** success in finding esp. a mineral in the earth: *an oil strike* | *a lucky strike* **4** (in BASEBALL) a swing at the ball that does not result in a successful hit, either from missing or from the ball going outside the play area **5** (in BOWLING) the knocking down of all the PINS[1] (6) (=bottle-shaped objects) on the first of two allowed rolls of the ball

strike·bound /ˈstraɪkbaʊnd/ *adj* unable to move, act, or travel because of a STRIKE[2] (1): *Britain's strikebound coal industry*

strike·break·er /ˈstraɪkˌbreɪkəʳ/ *n* a person who takes the job of someone else who is on STRIKE[2] (1) —compare BLACKLEG, SCAB (3) —**breaking** *n* [U]

strike·out /ˈstraɪkəʊt/ *n* (in BASEBALL) an act of putting a player out as a result of throwing three STRIKES[2] (4): *In tonight's game Hershiser threw twelve strikeouts.*

strike pay /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] money paid to workers on STRIKE[2] (1) from their trade union's **strike fund(s)**

strik·er /ˈstraɪkəʳ/ *n* **1** a person on STRIKE[2] (1) **2** an attacking player in a football team

strik·ing /ˈstraɪkɪŋ/ *adj* which draws the attention, esp. because noticeable or unusual: *a very striking woman* (=esp. beautiful in an unusual way) | *a striking idea* | *There were some striking similarities between the two books.* —~**ly** *adv*: *The two books were strikingly similar.*

striking dis·tance /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* **within striking distance (of)** very close (to): *The two sides are within striking distance of an agreement.*

strim /strɪm/ *v* to cut with a Strimmer

Strim·mer /ˈstrɪməʳ/ *n BrE tdmk* also **Weed Whacker** *AmE tdmk* a machine for cutting grass, which is held in the hand and moved around just above the ground. It has a piece of strong plastic string instead of a metal blade.

string[1] /strɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) narrow cord made of threads twisted together and used to tie, fasten, etc.: *Puppets are worked by strings.* | *She tied the parcel up with string.* | *a piece of string* | *a ball of string* —compare ROPE[1] (1) **2** [C] a thin metal wire or piece of CATGUT, usu. one of several, stretched across a musical instrument to give sound when hit, pulled suddenly, etc. **3** [C (**of**)] of a set of objects connected together on a thread: *a string of onions/pearls* **4** [C (**of**)] a set of things, events, etc. following each other closely: *We've had a whole string of complaints about the programme.* | *She's appeared in a string of successful films.* **5 have someone on a string** *infml* to be able to make someone act as one wishes: *The little boy's got his mother on a string.* **6 no strings attached** (esp. of an agreement) with no limiting conditions: *He'd promised me £1000 for the job without any strings attached, but now he's said I have to finish it by the end of the month.* **7 pull strings** to use secret influence: *He had to pull a few strings to get that job.* **8 two strings/a second string/another string to one's bow** *infml* an additional interest, ability, or idea which can be used, as well as the main one: *He had two strings to his bow, so when he lost his job as a toolmaker he was able to take up gardening professionally.* —see also STRINGS, FIRST-STRING, G-STRING, HAMSTRING, PURSE STRINGS, SECOND-STRING

string[2] *v* **strung** /strʌŋ/ [T] **1** to put together or with others onto a thread, so as to form a STRING[1] (3): *The beads were strung on very fine nylon.* | (fig.) *an illiterate who can hardly string a sentence together* **2** to put one or more STRINGS[1] (2) on (a musical instrument) —see also HIGHLY-STRUNG **3** to remove the strings from (beans)

string along *phr v infml* **1** [T] (**string** sbdy. ↔ **along**) to encourage the hopes of deceitfully: *He'll never be paid the money they promised him; they're just stringing him along.* **2** [I (**with**)] to go (with someone else) for a time, esp. for convenience: *If you're going into town I'll string along with you.*

string sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to spread out in a line: *She strung out twelve pairs of socks along the washing line.* | *The cars were strung out along the motorway.* —see also STRUNG-OUT

string sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to hang high: *They strung up lights in the garden.* **2** *infml* to put to death by hanging, as a punishment —see also STRUNG-UP

string[3] *adj* [A] **1** made of string, esp. woven into a net: *a string bag/vest* **2** for or made up of players with stringed instruments: *a string quartet* | *a string orchestra*

string bean /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* **1** a climbing bean with long, pencil-shaped green PODS which are used as food **2** *sl* a very tall, thin person

stringed in·stru·ment /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* a musical instrument with one or more STRINGS[1] (2): *A violin is a stringed instrument.* —see also STRINGS

strin·gent /ˈstrɪndʒənt/ *adj* **1** (esp. of rules, limits, etc.) severe; making difficult demands: *stringent laws/restrictions* | *stringent measures to deal with street crime* **2** marked by severe lack of money or by firm controls on the supply of money: *stringent economic conditions* —~**ly** *adv* —**gency** *n* [U]

string·er /ˈstrɪŋəʳ/ *n* a reporter, often self-employed, who works in a usu. far away place and sends in news stories to a newspaper or television station when there is something worth reporting

string quar·tet /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* a group of four performers on stringed instruments, usually consisting of two VIOLINS, a VIOLA, and a CELLO

strings /strɪŋz/ *n* [(*the*) P] the set of (players with) STRINGED INSTRUMENTS in an ORCHESTRA

string tie /ˈ· ·/ *n* a BOLO TIE

string·y /ˈstrɪŋi/ *adj usu.-derog* **1** full of threadlike parts (FIBRES): *some stringy old beans* **2** thin, so that the muscles show: *stringy arms* —**iness** *n* [U]

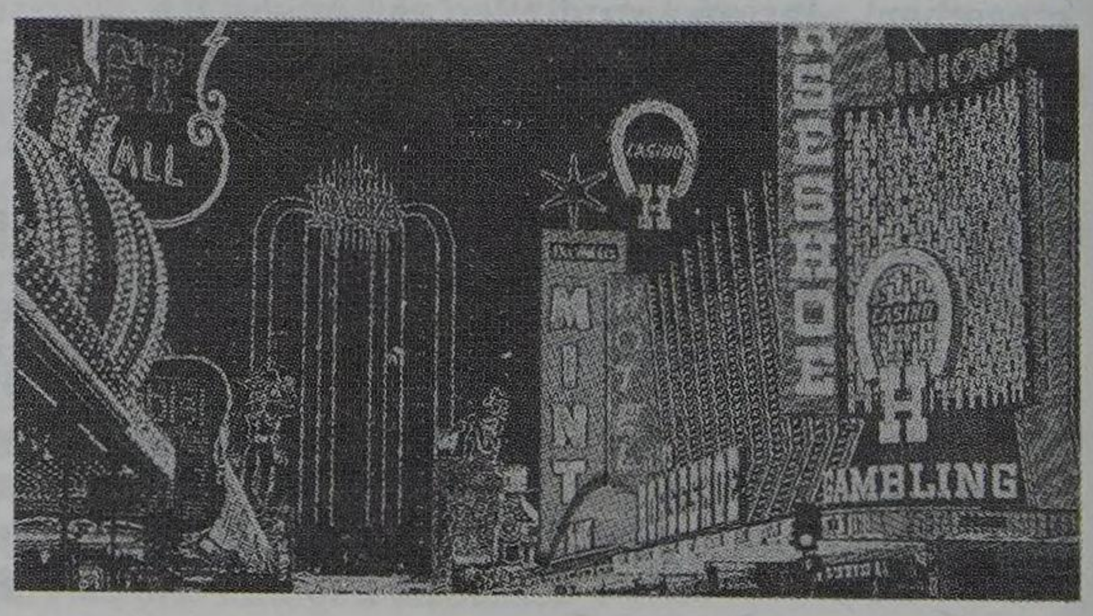
strip[1] /strɪp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [T (OFF, **off, from, of**)] **a** to remove parts of or the covering from (something), esp. by pulling or tearing: *The locusts had completely stripped the trees (of leaves).* **b** to remove (parts of something or the covering from something): *Locusts had stripped the leaves off | from the trees.* | *Before decorating the room they stripped the paint|the wallpaper from the walls.* **2** [I (OFF);T] to undress, usu. completely: *She stripped to* (=took off all her clothes except) *her bathing suit.* | *They stripped off and jumped into the pool.* | *The customs men stripped him and searched him.* **3** [T (DOWN)] to take (esp. an engine) apart; DISMANTLE: *We'll have to strip the engine (down) to find the fault.* —see also STRIPPED-DOWN **4** [T] to tear the THREAD (=raised twisting part) violently from (a GEAR[1] or SCREW[1] (1)): *If you try and put the car into reverse while you're going forward you'll strip the gears.* —see also STRIPPER

strip sbdy./sthg. **of** sthg. *phr v* [T] to take away (something of value) from: *The robbers stripped the house of all valuable articles.* | *The court martial found him guilty, and he was stripped of his rank.* | *preserving processes which strip food of its natural goodness*

strip[2] *n* **1** [(**of**)] a narrow piece: *a strip of land|paper* **2** an occasion or performance of taking one's clothes off, esp. as in STRIPTEASE: *The dancer did a strip.* **3** *BrE* the clothes of a particular colour worn by a football team: *Everton have a blue and white strip.* —see also COMIC STRIP, LANDING STRIP, **tear someone off a strip** (TEAR)

strip[3] [*the*] *AmE* an area of mixed businesses along a road or HIGHWAY, often outside or at the edge of a town or city: *a restaurant out on the strip*

The Strip



Strip [*the*] a long road in Las Vegas famous for its many CASINOS *and large hotels which are brightly lit at night*

strip car·toon /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n BrE for* COMIC STRIP

strip club /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a small theatre where STRIPPERS (1) perform

stripe /straɪp/ *n* **1** a band of colour, among one or more other colours: *Tigers' coats are tawny with black stripes.* | *a shirt with blue and white stripes* **2** a usu. V-shaped band worn on the arm of a uniform as a sign of rank: *A sergeant has three stripes.* **3** [S] kind or type: *antiwar demonstrators and people of that stripe* **4 earn one's stripes** to do something to deserve a rank or position: *Yeltsin may yet earn his stripes over the Kurile Islands.* —**stripy, stripey** *adj* : *a stripy pattern/coat*

striped /straɪpt/ *adj* having stripes of colour: *striped silk* | *a blue and white striped shirt*

strip light·ing /ˈ· ˌ··, ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] lighting provided by long FLUORESCENT tubes; usu. used in public places rather than in people's homes

strip·ling /ˈstrɪplɪŋ/ *n esp. lit* a young man

strip mall /ˈ· ˌ·/ also **mini-mall**— *n AmE* a small SHOPPING CENTRE, often found on a STRIP[3], that consists of a single row of shops with parking spaces in front of them

strip min·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n esp. AmE* mining using OPENCAST methods —compare OPENCAST

stripped-down /ˈ· ·/ *adj* reduced to simple form by the removal of additional parts: *a stripped-down old car*

strip·per /ˈstrɪpəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] *infml* a striptease performer **2** [C;U] a tool or usu. liquid substance for removing something from a surface: *a bottle of paint stripper*

strip·po·gram , strippagram /ˈstrɪpəgræm/ *n* someone who is paid by another person to remove some or all of their clothes in public, usu. at a social event, as a way of playing a PRACTICAL JOKE on a third person. People sometimes send strippograms to friends on their birthdays – compare KISSOGRAM

strip po·ker /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a game of POKER[2] in which players pay their losses by removing articles of clothing

strip·tease /ˈstrɪptiːz, ˌstrɪpˈtiːz/ *n* [C;U] a performance, esp. by a woman, in which the performer takes off her or his clothes in a sexually exciting way

strive /straɪv/ *v* **strove** /strəʊv/, **striven** /ˈstrɪvən/ [I (**for, against, after**)] *fml or lit* to struggle hard; make a great effort, esp. to gain something: *He strove for recognition as an artist.* | *striving after perfection/against injustice* [+*to-v*] *striving to improve their public image*

strobe light /ˈstrəʊb ˌlaɪt/ also **strobe**— *n* a light which goes on and off very quickly, often used in DISCOS

stro·bo·scope /ˈstrəʊbəskəʊp/ *n* an instrument that allows one to study and measure movement by giving repeated very short views of the moving object, e.g. by shining a light on and off

strode /strəʊd/ *past tense of* STRIDE

strog·a·noff /ˈstrɒgənɒf‖ˈstrɔːgənɔːf/ *adj* [*after n*] (of meat) cooked with onions, SOUR CREAM, and usu. MUSHROOMS: *beef stroganoff with noodles*

stroke[1] /strəʊk/ *v* [T] **1** to pass the hand over gently, esp. for pleasure: *The cat likes being stroked.* | *He stroked his beard reflectively.* **2** *esp. AmE* to treat very kindly in order to bring about good relations or some desired result: *You'll have to stroke her a little if you want the job done on time.*

stroke[2] *n* **1** [C] a hit, esp. with (the edge of) a weapon: *He was sentenced to fifty strokes of the whip.* | *He split the log with one stroke of the axe.* | *a stroke of lightning* **2** [C] an act of stroking: *He gave the dog a stroke.* **3** [C] an occasion when a blood tube in the brain suddenly bursts or is blocked, which damages the brain and can cause loss of the ability to move some part of the body: *He's had a stroke.* **4** [C] an act of hitting the ball in sport; SHOT: *The batsman played some beautiful strokes.* | *She won the golf match by two strokes.* (=needed to play two fewer strokes than her opponent) —see also GROUND STROKE **5** [C] a line made by a single movement of a pen or brush in writing or painting: *She drew in his face with a few strokes.* | *a brushstroke* | (fig.) *He signed away all their rights* **with a stroke of the pen.** **6** [C] (a single movement or set of movements that is repeated in) a method of swimming or rowing: *She can't swim yet but she's made a few strokes with her arms.* | *Butterfly is his strongest stroke.* | *They rowed a fast stroke.* —see also BACKSTROKE, BREASTSTROKE, SIDESTROKE **7** [S+**of**] an unexpected piece (of luck): *What a* **stroke of luck** *you were still here when I got back!* **8** [S (**of**)] a sudden act showing esp. the stated quality: *It was a* **stroke of genius** (=very clever) *to suggest this short cut.* | *It was an inspired stroke to make them bring their own food.* **9** [C] the sound made by a clock in giving the time: *She arrived* **on the stroke of** *12.* (=at 12 o'clock exactly) | *At the third stroke* (=on the telephone clock) *it will be 10.38 precisely.* **10** [C] *BrE*‖**slash** *AmE* an OBLIQUE[2]: *The serial number is seventeen stroke one.* (=17/1) **11** [S (**of**)] *infml* a single piece (of work); any work: *He just sits there all day and never does a stroke (of work).* **12** [C] a rower who sets the speed for others rowing with him or her: *He was (the) stroke/rowed stroke in the winning boat.* **13 at a stroke** with a single firm act; at once: *If any politician promises to improve things at a stroke, don't believe him.* **14 off one's stroke** not performing at one's best —see also HEATSTROKE, SUNSTROKE

stroll /strəʊl/ *v* [I] to walk a short distance slowly or lazily, esp. for pleasure: *We strolled in/around the park for an hour or so.* | *The manageress was furious when the new trainee strolled into work two hours late.* —**stroll** *n* : *Let's go for a stroll.*

stroll·er /ˈstrəʊləʳ/ *n* **1** a person who strolls or is strolling **2 a** *BrE* a light PUSHCHAIR that can be folded up **b** *AmE for* PUSHCHAIR —see picture at PRAM

stroll·ing /ˈstrəʊlɪŋ/ *adj* [A] (of an entertainer) travelling around the country giving informal performances on the way: *strolling players/musicians*

Strom·bo·li /ˈstrɒmbəli‖ˈstrɑːm-/ a VOLCANIC island in the Tyrrhenian Sea N of Sicily

strong /strɒŋ‖strɔːŋ/ *adj* **1 a** physically powerful; able to use great force, make great effort, etc.: *strong arms* | *He must be very strong to be able to lift that car.* **b** having or able to use great power or influence: *America is one of the strongest nations in the world.* | *a strong personality* | *strong leadership* **2 a** (of a thing) not easily broken, spoilt, changed, or destroyed: *strong shoes* | *strong furniture* | *a strong will* | *strong beliefs* | *a strong economy* **b** (of a person, body, etc.) not easily becoming ill; healthy; ROBUST: *a strong baby* | *The old lady has a strong constitution/heart.* | *You need a* **strong stomach** *to watch these violent films.* (=you should not watch them if you are easily upset) **3** moving with great force: *a strong wind/current* **4** having a powerful effect on the mind or senses: *a strong smell/taste* | *strong feelings* | *a strong impression/resemblance* **5** having the expected, necessary, or typical qualities to a high degree: *strong* (=persuasive) *evidence* | *The film has a strong cast.* (=has many good and/or famous actors) | *a novel with a strong story line* | *strong suspicions* | *I told him in the strongest possible terms* (=very forcefully) *that I disagreed with him.* **6** (of a drink, drug, etc.) having a lot of the material which gives taste, produces effects, etc.: *The tea is too strong.* | *a strong curry* | *strong painkilling drugs* | *Avoid strong drink.* (=alcoholic drinks) —compare WEAK (3) **7** showing a high likelihood of success, victory, etc.: *a strong possibility that England will win* | *Their chances are not very strong.* | *She's a strong contender for the party leadership.* **8** [after *n*] having the stated number, esp. of members: *Our club is 50 strong.* | *a 6000-strong workforce* **9** [F+**on**] **a** good at doing: *They're very strong on desserts in this restaurant.* **b** eager and active in dealing with: *The customs people are very strong on drug smugglers at this airport.* **10** [F] *esp. BrE infml* unacceptable: *It's a bit strong to punish them for such a small thing.* **11** [*no comp.*] (of a verb) which does not add a regular ending in the past tense, but may change a vowel: *"Speak" is a strong verb; its past tense is "spoke".* —compare WEAK (6) **12 (still) going strong** active and powerful, esp. after a long period or when old: *Grandfather's clock is still going strong.* **13 the strong, silent type** a type of man, often shown in old adventure films, who is very strong physically and does not talk or laugh very much —see also STRENGTH — ~**ly** *adv* : *I strongly recommend that you refuse.* | *a strongly-built table*

strong·arm /ˈstrɒŋɑːm‖ˈstrɔːŋɑːrm/ *adj* [A] *infml, usu. derog* using (unnecessary) force: *The police had used strongarm methods/tactics to make him admit his guilt.* **strongarm** *v* [T] : *The kidnappers strongarmed him into the back of their car.*

strong·box /ˈstrɒŋbɒks‖ˈstrɔːŋbɑːks/ *n* a strongly-made lockable usu. metal box for keeping valuable things in, such as jewels

strong force /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [*the*] the strongest of the four FUNDAMENTAL FORCES. It holds together the very small PARTICLES inside the NUCLEUS of an atom.

strong·hold /ˈstrɒŋhəʊld‖ˈstrɔːŋ-/ *n* **1** a strongly defended place or position: *a guerrilla stronghold* **2** [+**of**] a place where a particular activity or way of life is common or general: *The old London clubs are among the last strongholds of male privilege.*

strong lan·guage /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *euph* swearing; curses

strong-mind·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* firm in beliefs, wishes, etc.; determined: *He is very persuasive, and you need to be pretty strong-minded to say "no" to him.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

strong point /ˈ· ·/ *n* a skill, quality, etc., which one has a lot of: *Spelling isn't her strong point.* (=she is not good at it)

strong room /ˈ· ·/ *n* a room in a bank, etc., with a special thick door and walls, where valuable objects can be kept

strong suit /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE infml* something one is very good at doing: *He's writing a play now but detective stories are really his strong suit.*

strong-willed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having strength of will; determined

stron·ti·um /ˈstrɒntiəm‖ˈstrɑːntʃiəm, -tiəm/ *n* [U] a soft metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT)

strontium 90 /ˌstrɒntiəm ˈnaɪnti‖ˌstrɑːntʃiəm-, -tiəm-/ *n* [U] a form of strontium which is given off by atomic explosions and has harmful effects on people and animals

strop /strɒp‖strɑːp/ *n* a narrow piece of leather used for sharpening RAZORS

stro·phe /ˈstrəʊfi/ *n tech* **1** (esp. in ancient Greek plays) a song by a group of actors, answered by another group in the same way **2** a group of lines in a poem —**-phic** *adj*

strop·py /ˈstrɒpi‖ˈstrɑːpi/ *adj BrE infml* bad-tempered, unwilling to help, and tending to argue

strove /strəʊv/ *past tense of* STRIVE

struck /strʌk/ *past tense & participle of* STRIKE

struc·tur·al /ˈstrʌktʃərəl/ *adj* of a structure, esp. of the main part of a building: *The storm caused no structural damage.* | *structural unemployment* (=caused by changes in the structure of society) —~**ly** *adv*

structural en·gi·neer /ˌ··· ··ˈ·/ *n* an engineer skilled in planning the building of large structures, e.g. bridges

struc·tu·ral en·gi·neer·ing /ˌ··· ··ˈ··/ *n* a branch of engineering that deals with building large structures, e.g. bridges

struc·tur·al·is·m /ˈstrʌktʃərəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] a method of study, esp. in the social sciences and LINGUISTICS, which places particular importance on the relationships and patterns of organization that lie below the surface —**-ist** *adj, n*

struc·ture[1] /ˈstrʌktʃəʳ/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] an arrangement or organization; the way in which parts are formed into a whole: *the structure of the brain* | *cell structure* | *the structure of a sentence* | *the financial structure of the organization* | *a company's price structure|pricing structure* (=the range of prices it charges) **2** [C] something formed of many parts, esp. a building: *a six-storey brick structure*

structure[2] *v* [T] to arrange (esp. ideas) into a whole form, in which each part is related to others: *You need to structure your arguments more carefully.* | *a well structured report*

stru·del /ˈstruːdl/ *n* [C;U] a sort of cake of Austrian origin, made of light pastry with fruit inside: *apple strudel*

strug·gle[1] /ˈstrʌgəl/ *v* [I (**with**)] **1** to make violent movements, esp. when fighting against a stronger person or thing: *It's hard to rescue drowning people because they struggle so much.* | *He struggled with his assailants and eventually drove them off.* | *She struggled out of the net which had trapped her.* [+*to-v*] *They were struggling to get out of the burning car.* | (fig.) *At 3-0 down with five minutes to go, we were really struggling.* (=likely to lose) **2** to make great efforts, esp. when trying to deal with a difficult problem or situation: *I was struggling with the accounts.* | *She struggled* (=walked with difficulty) *up the stairs with her heavy bags.* [+*to-v*] *He struggled to control his temper.* | *young writers who have to struggle for recognition* | *struggling young writers*

struggle[2] *n* a hard fight or bodily effort; great or determined effort: *Three people were hurt in the struggle.* | *Despite his terrible injuries, he wouldn't give up the struggle for life.* | (*euph*) *We shall continue our* **armed struggle** (=war) *until the government is defeated.* | *With a struggle, he controlled his feelings.* | *It was|I had a struggle to make myself heard in all the noise.* | *the struggle for survival* | *a struggle for independence* | *Which of the contenders will come out on top in the power struggle?* —see also CLASS STRUGGLE

strum /strʌm/ *v* **-mm-** [I (**on**);T] to play (a tune) carelessly or informally on (a musical instrument) by brushing one's fingers over its strings, esp. without skill: *She was strumming (on) her guitar|strumming a tune on her guitar.*

strum·pet /ˈstrʌmpɨt/ *n old use derog for* a female PROSTITUTE

strung /strʌŋ/ *past tense & participle of* STRING

strung-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [F (**on**)] *infml* **1** strongly influenced by or unable to stop taking drugs: *strung-out on heroin* **2** extremely tired

strung-up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* very nervous, worried, or excited

strut[1] /strʌt/ *v* **-tt-** [I] *usu. derog* to walk proudly and stiffly, esp. with the chest pushed forwards and trying to look important: *The male bird strutted in front of the female.*

strut[2] *n* **1** a usu. long thin piece of wood or metal supporting a part of a building, aircraft, etc. **2** [*usu. sing.*] a strutting way of walking

strych·nine /ˈstrɪkniːn‖-naɪn, -niːn/ *n* [U] a poisonous drug used as a medicine in very small amounts

St Thom·as /· ˈ··/ an island in the US Virgin Islands in the West Indies

St Trinian's



St Trin·i·an's /sənt ˈtrɪniənz ‖ seɪnt-/ the name of a British private, girl's school in a humorous CARTOON of the 1950s and later in a number of humorous films. The school is shown as being very badly run, and the girls as being badly behaved and always involved in activities which are more or less illegal.

St Tro·pez /ˌsæn trəˈpeɪ/ a fashionable holiday town on the S coast of France, which used to be very popular with the rich and famous but is now popular with many ordinary people. It is connected in some people's minds with women going onto the BEACH with bare breasts, as this was one of the first holiday towns where this happened.

Stu·art /ˈstjuːət‖ˈstuːərt/ the name of the royal family that ruled Scotland from 1371 to 1603 and Britain from 1603 to 1649 and from 1660 to 1714 —see also MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

Stuart, Charles Edward (1720–88) also known as **The Young Pretender** and **Bonnie Prince Charlie**, the son of James Edward Stuart. He believed he had a right to be the King of Britain and led the Jacobite Rebellion in 1745–46, but was defeated. He is the HERO of many Scottish ROMANTIC stories. —see also Flora MACDONALD

Stuart, Gil·bert /ˈgɪlbət‖-bərt/ (1755–1828) an American painter famous esp. for his picture of George Washington

Stuart, James Edward (1688–1766) also called **The Old Pretender**, the son of King James II (James VII of

Scotland) who believed he had a right to be King of Britain, but whose attempts to become king failed

Stuart, Mary see MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

stub[1] /stʌb/ *n* **1** a short end of something, esp. a cigarette or pencil, left when the rest has been used **2** a piece of a cheque or ticket left in a book of these as a record after the main part has been torn out **3** the part of a ticket returned to the owner after it has been torn, as proof of payment

stub[2] *v* **-bb-** [T] to hurt (one's toe) by hitting it against something

stub sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to stop (a cigarette) burning by pressing the end against something

stub·ble /ˈstʌbəl/ *n* [Ú] short stiff pieces of something which grows, esp. a short beard or the remains of wheat after being cut: *Farmers often burn the stubble after they've cut the corn.* | *Ever since designer stubble became fashionable, he's been very lazy about shaving.* —**-bly** *adv*: *a stubbly growth of beard*

stub·born /ˈstʌbən‖-ərn/ *adj* **1** determined, esp. to an unreasonable degree; with a strong will: (*derog*) *He's a stubborn child who won't obey his mother.* | (*apprec*) *The defenders put up stubborn resistance but were eventually defeated.* **2** difficult to move, change, etc.: *This lock's rather stubborn; it needs oiling.* | *stubborn stains* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

Stubbs /stʌbs/, **George** (1724–1806) an English artist known esp. for his paintings of horses and other animals

stub·by /ˈstʌbi/ *adj infml, often derog* short and thick: *stubby little fingers*

stuc·co /ˈstʌkəʊ/ *n* [U] a covering of PLASTER on the walls of buildings, often formed into decorative shapes — **~ed** /ˈstʌkəʊd/ *adj*

stuck[1] /stʌk/ *past tense & participle of* STICK: *The paper's stuck to my finger.*

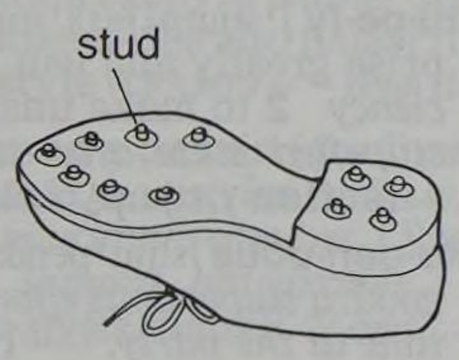
stuck[2] *adj* [F] **1** fixed in position; impossible to move: *The door's stuck; we'll have to get out through the window.* | *He got his finger stuck|His finger got stuck in the hole.* **2** *infml* unable to go further or do anything further, esp. because of difficulties: *I'm stuck; can you give me some help with this sum, Dad?* | *If the bank won't lend us the money we'll really be stuck.* | *She was stuck at home looking after the children.* **3** [+**with**] *infml* having to do, have, or deal with, esp. unwillingly: *We were stuck with relatives who came to stay unexpectedly.* **4** [+**on**] *infml* having a great liking for; fond of (esp. someone): *Jane's really stuck on her new teacher.* **5 get stuck in(to)** *BrE infml* to start work or an activity eagerly or forcefully: *Here's your dinner; get stuck in!* | *He got completely stuck into that book you gave him; we could hardly get him to say a word!* —see also STICK[2]

stuck[3] *n* [**in**+U] *BrE sl* trouble: *You'll be in dead stuck if the boss finds out what you've done!*

stuck-up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml derog* proud and thinking oneself to be important: *She's too stuck-up to speak to her old friends.*

stud[1] /stʌd/ *n* **1** a fastener used instead of a button and button hole, esp. a COLLAR STUD or PRESS-STUD **2** a pointed or lumplike part that sticks out from the bottom of a shoe, a tyre, etc., to prevent slipping: *The ground's wet — you'll need football boots with long studs.* **3** a small nearly flat piece of metal fixed with others into a road surface to mark off areas **4** a large nail with a large head, used for decoration: *The great oak door had iron studs in it.*

stud



stud[2] *v* **-dd-** [T (**with**)] to cover with STUDS[1]: *He wore a belt studded with brass nails.* | (fig.) *The sky was studded with stars.* —see also STAR-STUDDED

stud[3] *n* **1** a number of horses or other animals kept for breeding: *This horse has been retired from racing and has now been* **put out to stud.** (=is being used for breeding) | *a stud farm* **2** *derog* or *humor* a man who has sex a lot and who thinks he is very good at it: *He reckons he's a real stud.*

stud·book /ˈstʌdbʊk/ *n* a list of names of animals, esp. race horses, from which other animals have been bred

stu·dent /ˈstjuːdənt‖ˈstuː-/ *n* **1** a person who is studying, esp. at a place of education or training: *a history student* (=studying history) | *a student of* (=taught by) *Yehudi Menuhin*

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, the STEREOTYPE of a student is of someone who does not spend very much time studying, but spends a lot of time drinking and enjoying themselves. In the US, students are generally understood to work hard and **play hard** (= enjoy themselves).◄

2 [+**of**] a person with the stated interest: *a student of human nature*

▷USAGE Compare **student, pupil,** and **scholar.** Anyone studying at a college or university is a **student.** In the US, this word is also used for younger people in schools, but in Britain these are usually **pupils.** A **pupil** can also be a grown-up person studying under a famous musician, etc. A **scholar** is either **a** a **pupil** (British English, old use), **b** someone whose education is being paid for because they have done very well, or **c** someone (perhaps an old person) who has studied a difficult subject for a long time and knows a lot about it.◁

student loans /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a method of paying for education in which students at universities and colleges borrow money from banks and repay it when they begin work after completing their studies

►CULTURAL NOTE Many countries including the US already have student loans. In Britain, student loans are slowly being introduced; they are very unpopular with many people who believe that they will prevent poorer students from receiving higher education.◄

students' u·nion /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **student union**— *n* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] an association of students, esp. one in a particular British college or university, or one for students from many places of education —compare NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS **2** (a part of) a building where students go to meet socially

student teach·er /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a person who is training to become a teacher and is doing some teaching as part of their training

student teach·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *AmE for* TEACHING PRACTICE

stud·ied /ˈstʌdid/ *adj often derog* carefully thought about or considered, esp. before being expressed, and perhaps therefore not sincere: *a studied remark* | *She spoke with studied politeness.*

stu·di·o /ˈstjuːdiəʊ‖ˈstuː-/ *n* **-os** **1** a room from which broadcasts are made or in which recordings are made: *a television studio* **2 a** also **studios** *pl.*— a place where cinema films are made: *Pinewood Studios* **b** a film-making company: *Some of Hollywood's leading studios are interested in signing her.* **3 a** a workroom for a painter, photographer, etc.: *one of London's leading design studios* **b** a company producing artistic or photographic work **4** a room or other place where dancing or dancelike exercise can be practised or taught **5** also **studio flat** /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **studio a·part·ment** /ˈ··· ·ˌ··/ *esp. AmE*— a one-room flat; BED-SITTER

studio au·di·ence /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* people who watch (or may be involved in) a television or radio programme while it is being made: *Thank-you to our studio audience and to all our listeners|viewers at home.*

studio couch /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a piece of furniture for more than one person to sit on, which can be made into a bed

stu·di·ous /ˈstjuːdiəs‖ˈstuː-/ *adj* **1** fond of studying: *a serious and studious young man* **2** [A] *fml* careful: *He always pays studious attention to detail.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

stud·y[1] /ˈstʌdi/ *n* **1** [U] also **studies** *pl.*— *fml* the act of studying one or more subjects: *He spent the entire afternoon in study.* | *You must give more time to your studies.* | *How are your medical studies progressing?* **2** [C (**of**)] a thorough enquiry into a particular subject, esp. including a piece of writing on it: *the university's department of social studies* | *She's made a study of the language of Shakespeare's plays.* | *The government has ordered a* **feasibility study** *in connection with the proposed new airport.* | *a study group working on aspects of the company's financial policy* **3** [C] a room used for private work or study or as an office: *the headmaster's study* **4** [C (**of**)] a drawing or painting of a detail, esp. for combining later into a larger picture: *a study of a flower*

5 [C] a piece of music for practice: *Chopin's piano studies* **6 in a brown study** *BrE infml* deep in thought —see also CASE STUDY

study² *v* **1** [I;T] to spend time in learning (one or more subjects), esp. as part of an educational course: *He studies French.* | *She is studying to be a doctor.* | *a violinist who studied under* (=was taught by) *Yehudi Menuhin* **2** [T] to examine carefully; SCRUTINIZE: *She studied the report|the map.* | *He studied her face.*

study hall /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* (in American schools) a period of time during a school day in which a student does not have a class and usu. goes somewhere to study: *I've got study hall from two to three today.*

stuff¹ /stʌf/ *n* [U] **1** *infml* matter; material: *What's this sticky stuff on the floor?* | *This beer's been very popular; we've sold gallons of the stuff.* (=of the beer) | *Would you like some more beer, or would you prefer a drop of the* **hard stuff**? (=strong alcohol) | *This meat's good stuff!* | *There are one or two good articles in the magazine but otherwise it's all pretty boring stuff.* **2** *infml* things in a mass, esp. one's possessions or the things needed to do something: *I can't carry all my stuff alone!* | *Have you brought your swimming stuff?* **3** *lit or pomp* inner quality: *Such experiences are* **the (very) stuff of** *life.* (=are what life is made of) | *You're not giving up? I thought you were* **made of sterner stuff** *than that.* (=were more determined) **4** *old use* cloth **5 do one's stuff** *infml* to do what is necessary in a particular situation, esp. when one is the only person present who can do it **6 Stuff and nonsense!** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ That's untrue/a stupid idea! **7 'That's the stuff!** *infml* That's the right thing to do/say! —see also HOT STUFF, **know one's stuff** (KNOW¹)

stuff² *v* **1** [T (**with**)] to fill with a substance: *Don't stuff the pillow too tight.* | *He stuffed the shoe with newspaper.* | *His pocket was stuffed full of dirty handkerchiefs.* **2** [T+*adv|prep*, esp. **into**] to push, esp. as filling material: *Don't stuff anything else in, or the bag will burst.* | *He stuffed the handkerchief into his pocket.* **3** [T] to fill the skin of (a dead animal), to make it look real: *a stuffed elephant* **4** [T] to put STUFFING (2) inside: *Has the chicken been stuffed?* | *cheese-stuffed potatoes* **5** [I;T] *infml* to cause (oneself) to eat as much as possible: *The children have been stuffing themselves (with cakes) all morning.* **6 get stuffed** *sl* (used for expressing very strong dislike, anger, etc.): *He only offered me £2 for it, so I told him to get stuffed.* (=I refused the offer angrily)

stuff sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to block completely: *Stuff up that hole with some newspaper.* | *I'm all stuffed up|have got a stuffed-up nose* (=have my nose blocked because of a cold) *today.*

stuffed an·i·mal /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n AmE* for SOFT TOY

stuffed shirt /ˌ· ˈ·, ˈ· ·/ *n derog* someone who acts as if they were grand and important; POMPOUS person

stuff·ing /ˈstʌfɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** material used as a filling for something: *Use feathers as stuffing.* | (fig.) *I'm afraid that long illness has really* **knocked the stuffing out of** *him.* (=made him weak and powerless) **2** ‖ also **dressing** *AmE* finely cut-up food (e.g. a mixture of bread, egg, onion, and HERBS) placed inside a bird or piece of meat before cooking: *sage-and-onion stuffing*

stuff·y /ˈstʌfi/ *adj derog* **1** (having air) which is not fresh: *a stuffy room|atmosphere* **2** (of ideas, manners, etc.) formal and old-fashioned; PRIM: *Don't be so stuffy – of course they can use the same bedroom.* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

stul·ti·fy /ˈstʌltɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to make stupid or dull in mind: *the stultifying effect of uninteresting work* —**-fication** /ˌstʌltɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

stum·ble¹ /ˈstʌmbəl/ *v* [I] **1** [(**on, over**)] to hit one's foot against something while moving along and start to fall: *He stumbled and fell.* | *She stumbled on a stone|over a branch.* **2** [+*adv|prep*, esp. **along**] to walk unsteadily: *I stumbled upstairs and dropped into bed.* **3** [(**at, over**)] to stop and/or make mistakes in speaking or reading aloud: *He stumbled at|over the long word.* | *Somehow he stumbled through his speech and sat down with great relief.*

stumble across/on/upon sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to meet or discover by chance: *While I was doing my research, I stumbled on some fascinating new data.*

stumble² *n* an act of stumbling

stumbling block /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [(**to**)] something which prevents action, advance, or development; OBSTACLE: *The question of overtime pay proved to be an insurmountable stumbling block to agreement.*

stump¹ /stʌmp/ *n* **1** the base of a tree left after the rest has been cut down **2** (in cricket) any of the three upright pieces of wood at which the ball is thrown —see picture at CRICKET **3** the useless end of something long which has been worn down, such as a tooth, pencil, etc.; STUB **4** the remaining part of a limb which has been cut off – see also **stir one's stumps** (STIR)

stump² *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*] to move, esp. heavily or awkwardly: *He stumped angrily up the stairs.* **2** [T] *infml* to leave (someone) unable to reply; BAFFLE¹: *You've|That question's got me stumped; I don't know the answer.* **3** [T] (in cricket) to end the turn to hit of (a BATSMAN) who has moved outside the hitting area, by touching the STUMPS¹ (2) with the ball **4** [I;T] *AmE* to travel in or around (an area) making appearances to gain political support: *The candidates are stumping Vermont.* | *He'll be stumping hard for the next three months.*

stump up (sthg.) *phr v* [I;T] *infml, esp. BrE* to pay (money), esp. unwillingly: *He eventually stumped up £5 for the charity, but only after we'd asked him several times.*

stump·y /ˈstʌmpi/ *adj infml, usu. derog* (esp. of the body or part of the body) short and thick: *stumpy little fingers*

stun /stʌn/ *v* **-nn-** [T] **1** to make unconscious by hitting on the head: *I was momentarily stunned by the fall.* **2** to shock or surprise very greatly: *He seemed completely stunned by the jury's verdict of guilty.* | *a stunned silence*

stung /stʌŋ/ *past tense & participle of* STING

stun gùn /ˈ· ·/ *n* a weapon like a long stick which gives out a very strong electric current and can be used to make people unconscious. In some countries stun guns are used by the police to control RIOTS.

stunk /stʌŋk/ *past tense & participle of* STINK

stun·ner /ˈstʌnəʳ/ *n old-fash infml* someone or something very attractive, esp. a woman: *She's a real stunner.*

stun·ning /ˈstʌnɪŋ/ *adj* **1** extremely attractive or beautiful: *stunning scenery* | *She looks absolutely stunning in that dress.* **2** very surprising or shocking: *stunning news* —~**ly** *adv* : *stunningly* (=extremely) *obvious*

stunt¹ /stʌnt/ *v* [T] to prevent the full growth of: *Lack of the right food may stunt growth.* | *He had a small stunted body.*

stunt² *n* **1** an often dangerous act of skill: *In the film he had to drive a car into the sea, and other hair-raising stunts.* | *The plane flew upside down, turned over twice, and did a few more stunts before landing.* | *stunt flying* | (fig.) *If you go on* **pulling** *stupid* **stunts** (=doing silly things) *like that, you'll lose us all our money.* **2** an action which gains attention, esp. in advertising: *They had girls going round dressed up as chickens as a* **publicity stunt** *for their new chickenburgers.*

stunt man /ˈ· ·/ **stunt wom·an** /ˈ· ˌ··/ *fem.— n* a person who takes over from an actor when something dangerous has to be done in a film so that the actor does not have to take risks

stu·pe·fy /ˈstjuːpəfaɪ‖ˈstuː-/ *v* [T *often pass.*] *fml* **1** to surprise greatly and usu. annoy; AMAZE: *stupefying inefficiency* **2** to make unable to think or feel: *He was in a stupefied state after all the drugs they'd given him.* —**-faction** /ˌstjuːpəˈfækʃən‖ˌstuː-/ *n* [U]

stu·pen·dous /stjuːˈpendəs‖stuː-/ *adj* surprisingly great or good: *a stupendous effort|discovery* | *We had a stupendous time at the party.* —~**ly** *adv*

stu·pid /ˈstjuːpəd‖ˈstuː-/ *adj* **1** silly or foolish, either generally or in particular: *a stupid person|idea* | *It was stupid of you to turn it upside down without closing the lid.* | *I think you were stupid not to accept his offer.* **2** [A] *infml* (of a thing) annoying: *This stupid drawer won't open.* —~**ly** *adv*

stu·pid·i·ty /stjuːˈpɪdəti‖stuː-/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being stupid **2** [C *usu. pl.*; U] (an example or act of) stupid behaviour

stu·por /ˈstjuːpəʳ‖ˈstuː-/ *n* [C;U] a state in which one cannot think or use one's senses: *a drunken stupor*

stur·dy /ˈstɜːdi‖-ɜːr-/ *adj apprec* **1** strong and firm, esp. in body; not likely to break or fall, esp. because of thickness: *With his sturdy legs he could keep running for hours.* | *Make sure that fence you're putting up is good and*

sturdy. | *a sturdy oak tree* **2** unwilling to be defeated; determined: *They kept up a sturdy opposition to the plan.* —**ily** *adv* : *She sturdily denied her guilt.* —**iness** *n* [U]

stur·geon /ˈstɜːdʒən‖-ɜːr-/ *n* a large fish which can be eaten and from which CAVIAR is obtained

stut·ter[1] /ˈstʌtəʳ/ *v* **1** [I; T] to speak or say with difficulty in producing sounds, esp. habitually repeating the first consonant: *"I c-c-can't help it", he stuttered.* —compare STAMMER **2** [I] to work or move unevenly or jumpily: *I pressed the starter and the old engine stuttered into life.* —~**er** *n* —~**ingly** *adv*

stutter[2] *n* the habit of stuttering in speech: *He has a nervous stutter|speaks with a stutter.*

Stutt·gart /ˈʃtʊtgɑːt‖-gɑːrt/ an industrial city in SW Germany, the capital of Baden-Württemberg state

STV /ˌes tiː ˈviː/ Scottish Television; one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, transmitting programmes to E Anglia

St Vin·cent /sənt ˈvɪnsənt‖seɪnt-/ an island nation in the West Indies consisting of the main island, St Vincent, and the small islands, the Grenadines in the Windward Islands; capital Kingstown; population 110,000 (1989)

sty[1] /staɪ/ *n* a PIGSTY

sty[2] **stye** /staɪ/ *n* an infected place on the edge of the eyelid, usu. red and swollen

Sty·gi·an /ˈstɪdʒiən/ *adj lit* unpleasantly dark: *We groped our way through the Stygian gloom.*

style[1] /staɪl/ *n* **1** [C;U] a general manner of doing something which is typical or representative of a person or group, a time in history, etc.: *the modern style of architecture* | *a painting in the style of Picasso* | *Some people have criticized the Prime Minister's style of leadership.* **2** [C;U] **a** the particular choice of words or manner of expression used by or typical of a writer or speaker: *The letter is written in a formal style.* | *He is supposed to be a great writer, but I don't like his style.* **b** a habitual way of spelling, of using PUNCTUATION, of using capital letters, etc.: *Our* **house style** (=in our company) *is to use* -ize *rather than* -ise. **3** [C] a type or sort, esp. of goods: *They sell every style of mirror.* | *a new style garlic press* **4** [U] *apprec* high quality, skill, or grace in performance, manner, social behaviour, or appearance: *He has great style: he wears hand-made clothes, drives a beautiful car, and goes to the best parties.* | *He performed the violin solo with a beautiful sense of style.* **5** [C;U] fashion, esp. in clothes: *70s styles look very odd today.* | *jackets in the latest style* | *Long hair is definitely* **out of style** *at the moment.* **6** [S] *infml* someone's characteristic way of behaving; what someone would do: *I wouldn't tell lies to you; that's not my style.* **7** [C] *tech* a correct title: *The eldest son of an earl takes the style "Lord".* **8** the centre part of a flower below the STIGMA —see picture at FLOWER **9 in style** so as to cause admiration by being fashionable and spending a lot of money: *When they got married they decided to do it in style, and gave a big party.* **10 -style: a** in the manner of the stated person, place, etc.: *He wears his hair long, hippie-style.* | *I like my hamburgers served American-style.* **b** like the stated thing in appearance only: *a leather-style briefcase* (=not made of real leather) —see also HAIRSTYLE, LIFESTYLE, **cramp someone's style** (CRAMP) —~**less** *adj*

style[2] *v* [T] **1** to arrange or form in a certain (good) pattern, shape, etc.; DESIGN: *This sofa was styled in Italy.* | *The dress is carefully styled for maximum comfort.* | *She's having her hair styled by a famous hairdresser.* **2** [+*obj*+*n*] to give (a title) to: *He styles himself "Lord".* —see also SELF-STYLED

styling brush /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a heated brush used, esp. by women, to give shape to the hair

styling mousse /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a light substance, like FOAM (1), used on the hair to help it keep its style

styl·ish /ˈstaɪlɪʃ/ *adj apprec* fashionable; ELEGANT: *He's a stylish dresser.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

styl·ist /ˈstaɪlɪst/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a person who develops or arranges styles of appearance: *a hair stylist* (=who cuts and arranges people's hair) **2** a person who carefully develops a good style of writing

styl·is·tic /staɪˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* of style, esp. in writing or art: *Note the stylistic differences between the genuine painting and the forgery.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

styl·is·tics /staɪˈlɪstɪks/ *n* [U] the study of style in written or spoken language

styl·ize also -**ise** *BrE* /ˈstaɪlaɪz/ *v* [T] (in art or description) to treat or present (something) in a fixed often less detailed style, rather than exactly as it is in real life: *Playing cards are marked with stylized (representations of) hearts, diamonds, etc.*

sty·lus /ˈstaɪləs/ *n* **1** a needle-like instrument, with a diamond or other hard jewel on the end, that picks up the sound signals from a record in a RECORD PLAYER **2** a pointed instrument used in ancient times for writing on WAX

sty·mie /ˈstaɪmi/ *v* [T] *infml* to prevent from taking action or being put into action; stop; THWART: *His plan for improving the business was stymied by a lack of funds.*

styp·tic /ˈstɪptɪk/ *n, adj tech* (a substance) which stops bleeding

sty·ro·foam /ˈstaɪərəˌfəʊm/ *n* [U] *AmE tdmk for* POLYSTYRENE

Sty·ron /ˈstaɪərən/, **William** (1925–) an American writer, known esp. for his powerful, often poetic NOVELS, e.g. *Sophie's Choice*

Styx /stɪks/ [*the*] in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY a river in Hades across which the souls of dead people were carried in a boat by Charon

suave /swɑːv/ *adj sometimes derog* having or showing very good smooth manners, esp. in an insincere way —~**ly** *adv* —**suavity, ~ness** *n* [U]

sub[1] /sʌb/ *n infml* **1** a SUBMARINE[2] **2** (esp. in sport) a SUBSTITUTE[1]: *England brought on their sub in the second half.* **3** *BrE for* SUBSCRIPTION **4** *BrE* an amount of money paid to someone from their wages before the usual day of payment **5** a SUBEDITOR **6** *AmE* a SUBMARINE SANDWICH: *I usually just get a sub for lunch.* | *a sub shop*

sub[2] *v* **-bb-** *infml* **1** [I (**for**)] to act as a SUBSTITUTE[1] **2** [T] *BrE* to give a SUB[1] (4) to **3** [T] to SUBEDIT

sub- see WORD FORMATION

sub·al·tern /ˈsʌbəltən‖səˈbɔːltərn/ *n BrE* an army officer lower in rank than a captain

sub-aq·ua /sʌb ˈækwə/ *adj* [A] *BrE* for underwater sports, such as skin diving (SKIN-DIVE): *a sub-aqua club*

Su·ba·ru /ˈsuːbəruː/ *tdmk* a car made by the Japanese company Subaru

sub·a·tom·ic /ˌsʌbəˈtɒmɪk◂ ‖ -ˈtɑː-/ *adj tech* smaller than an atom: *subatomic particles*

sub·com·mit·tee /ˈsʌbkəˌmɪti/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.v*] a smaller group formed from a larger committee to deal with a certain matter in more detail

sub·com·pact /ˌsʌbˈkɒmpækt ‖ -ˈkɑːm-/ *n AmE* a car that is smaller than a COMPACT

sub·con·scious[1] /sʌbˈkɒnʃəs‖-ˈkɑːn-/ *adj* [*no comp.*] (of thoughts, feelings, etc.) not fully known or understood by the conscious mind; present at a hidden level of the mind —~**ly** *adv*

subconscious[2] also **unconscious**— [*the*] the level at which one's mind works without one being conscious of it, having thoughts and feelings that one does not actively know about —see CONSCIOUS (USAGE)

sub·con·ti·nent /ˌsʌbˈkɒntɪnənt‖-ˈkɑːn-/ *n* a large mass of land not quite large enough to be called a CONTINENT: *the Indian subcontinent* (=includes India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Bangladesh)

sub·con·ti·nen·tal /ˌsʌbkɒntɪˈnentl◂ ‖ -kɑːn-/ *n, adj AmE* (a person) of a subcontinent, esp. the Indian subcontinent

▷ USAGE American English uses **subcontinental** when referring to people from the Indian subcontinent, and **Asian** or **Oriental** for people from East or Southeast Asia. British English generally uses **Asian** for all of these.◁

sub·con·tract /ˌsʌbkənˈtrækt‖-ˈkɑːntrækt/ *v* [T (**to**)] to hire someone else to do (work which one has agreed to do): *Our building firm is very busy at the moment, so we're subcontracting the roofing to another company.*

sub·con·trac·tor /ˌsʌbkənˈtræktəʳ‖-ˈkɑːntræk-/ *n* a person or firm that has had work subcontracted to it

sub·cul·ture /ˈsʌbˌkʌltʃəʳ/ *n* (the behaviour, beliefs, and customs of) a particular group of people within a society, often a group whose behaviour is disapproved of by

most people: *the drug subculture of the big cities*

sub·cu·ta·ne·ous /ˌsʌbkjuːˈteɪniəs◂/ *adj tech* beneath the skin: *subcutaneous fat* —~**ly** *adv*

sub·di·vide /ˌsʌbdɪˈvaɪd/ *v* [T (**into**)] to divide (something that is already divided) into smaller parts: *The house is being subdivided into flats.*

sub·di·vi·sion /ˈsʌbdɪvɪʒən/ *n* [C;U] (a part which results from) the act of subdividing **2** [C??]?? *AmE* an area of land that has been subdivided for building houses on

sub·due /səbˈdjuː‖-ˈduː/ *v* [T] to gain control of, esp. by defeating: *She tried to subdue her anger.* | *Napoleon subdued much of Europe.*

sub·dued /səbˈdjuːd‖-ˈduːd/ *adj* **1** below usual brightness, loudness, etc.; gentle: *subdued lighting* | *a subdued voice* **2** unnaturally or unusually quiet in behaviour: *You seem very subdued tonight: is anything worrying you?*

sub·ed·it /ˌsʌbˈedɪt/ also **sub** *infml*— *v* [T] to examine and put right (others' writing) as a subeditor

sub·ed·i·tor /ˌsʌbˈedɪtəʳ/ also **sub** *infml*— *n* a person whose job is to examine and improve or put right something written by another person, such as a newspaper article

sub·group /ˈsʌbgruːp/ *n* a separate, smaller, and sometimes less important part of a group

sub·head·ing /ˈsʌbˌhedɪŋ/ *n* a short title phrase at the beginning of any of the parts of a piece of writing

sub·hu·man /sʌbˈhjuːmən‖-ˈhjuː-, -ˈjuː-/ *adj usu. derog* of less than human qualities: *Anyone who could commit such terrible atrocities must be subhuman.* | *subhuman intelligence* —compare INHUMAN

Su·bic Bay /ˌsuːbɪk ˈbeɪ/ a very large American military base in the Philippines

sub·ject[1] /ˈsʌbdʒɪkt/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] the thing that is dealt with or represented in a piece of writing, work of art, etc.: *The subject of her book is sailing.* | *She wrote a book* **on the subject of** *sailing.* | *The subject of the painting is the Battle of Waterloo.* **2** something being talked about or considered: *He was clearly embarrassed to talk about his private life, and tried to* **change the subject.** | *And while we're* **on the subject of** (=while we're talking about) *money, what about that £10 I lent you?* | *The budget has been the subject of much debate/criticism.* **3** a branch of knowledge studied, esp. in a system of education: *History is my favourite subject/my best subject at school.* | *She's taking three subjects in her exams.* **4** *tech* (in grammar) a noun, noun phrase, or PRONOUN that usu. comes before a main verb and represents the person or thing that performs the action of the verb or about which something is stated, such as *she* in *She hit John* or *elephants* in *Elephants are big* —compare OBJECT[1] (4) **5** a person who lives in the land of, is protected by, and owes loyalty to a certain state or esp. royal ruler: *all the Queen's subjects* | *a subject of the United Kingdom* | *a British subject* — compare ALIEN[2] (2), CITIZEN (2), NATIONAL[2] **6** [(**of, for**)] *fml* a cause: *His strange clothes were the subject of* (=caused) *great amusement/were a subject for amusement.* **7** a person or animal to whom something is done in an EXPERIMENT: *an experiment to study the effects of smoking, with mice as the subjects*

subject[2] *adj* **1** [F+**to**] tending or likely (to have): *He's subject to ill health.* (=often becomes ill) | *The arrangements are subject to change* (=may be changed) *at short notice.* **2** [F+**to**] governed (by) or dependent (on): *All such gatherings are subject to the laws on political meetings.* | *The plans are subject to ministerial approval.* (=the minister has to agree to them, and he may not) **3** [A *no comp.*] *fml or lit* governed by someone else; not independent: *a subject race* **4 subject to** depending on: *Subject to your approval* (=if you approve), *we'll go ahead.*

sub·ject[3] /səbˈdʒekt/ *v* [T] *fml or lit* to bring under firm control; not allow to have free expression: *The Aztecs subjected the neighbouring tribes (to their rule).*

subject sbdy./sthg. **to** sthg. *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to cause to experience or suffer: *We were subjected to a good deal of ill-mannered abuse.* | *He was subjected to torture.* | *The scientists subjected the products to a number of rigorous tests.* | *No one would willingly subject himself to such indignities.*

sub·jec·tion /səbˈdʒekʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** [(**of**)] the act of subjecting: *an ambitious and ruthless country intent on the subjection of the surrounding states* **2** [(**to**)] a state of dependence, esp. in which one cannot do anything except if someone else allows it: *The children lived in complete subjection while their father was alive.*

sub·jec·tive /səbˈdʒektɪv/ *adj* **1** *often derog* influenced by personal feelings and therefore perhaps unfair: *This is a very subjective judgment of her abilities.* —opposite **objective** **2** [*no comp.*] existing only in the mind; imaginary: *The ghostly presence was just a subjective sensation/impression.* **3** (in grammar) of the subject —~**ly** *adv* —**-tivity** /ˌsʌbdʒekˈtɪvəti/ *n* [U]

subject matter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] what is being talked about in speech or writing or represented in art: *His speech was clever and witty, although the subject matter wasn't interesting in itself.* | *I'm afraid the style doesn't match the subject matter.*

sub·join /ˌsʌbˈdʒɔɪn/ *v* [T (**to**)] *fml or pomp* to add (a sentence or phrase) at the end: *My comments on the report are here subjoined.*

sub ju·di·ce /ˌsʌb ˈdʒuːdɪsi‖ˌsʊb ˈjuːdɪkeɪ/ *adj* [F] *law, Lat* (of a legal case) now being considered in court, and therefore not allowed to be publicly mentioned, e.g. in a newspaper

sub·ju·gate /ˈsʌbdʒʊgeɪt/ *v* [T] to defeat and make obedient: *a subjugated people* —**-gation** /ˌsʌbdʒʊˈgeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

sub·junc·tive /səbˈdʒʌŋktɪv/ *n* (in grammar) a verb form, or a set of verb forms (a MOOD[2]), used in some languages to express doubt, wishes, situations that do not actually exist, etc.: *In "if I were you" the verb "were" is in the subjunctive/is a subjunctive.* —compare IMPERATIVE[2] (1), INDICATIVE[2] —**subjunctive** adj

sub·lease[1] /ˈsʌb-liːs‖sʌbˈliːs/ *n* an agreement by which someone who rents property from its owner then rents (part of) that property to someone else —see also LEASE

sub·lease[2] /sʌbˈliːs/ *v* [I;T] to sublet

sub·let /sʌbˈlet/ *v* **-tt-** [I;T] to rent (a property one rents from its owner) to someone else: *He rents the house and sublets a room to a friend.* —see also LET, SUBTENANT

sub·lieu·ten·ant /ˌsʌb-ləˈtenənt, -lef-‖-luː-/ *n* a naval rank —see TABLE 3 —see picture at RANK

sub·li·mate[1] /ˈsʌblɪmeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml or tech* **1** to replace (natural urges, esp. sexual ones) with socially acceptable activities **2** (in chemistry) to change (a solid substance) to a gas by heating it and then change it back to a solid, in order to make it pure —**-mation** /ˌsʌblɪˈmeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

sub·li·mate[2] /ˈsʌblɪmət/ *n tech* (in chemistry) a solid after it has been sublimated

sub·lime /səˈblaɪm/ *adj* **1** causing deep feelings of wonder, joy, etc.: *sublime music* | (*infml*) *What a sublime* (=very good) *meal that was!* **2** [A] *infml derog* complete and usu. careless, unknowing, or unintentional: *With a sublime disregard for the rules he parked his car right in front of the main entrance.* | *sublime ignorance* **3 from the sublime to the ridiculous** (when comparing two things, occasions, etc.) starting with something wonderful, but followed by something silly —~**ly** *adv* : *sublimely unaware of the risk she was taking* —~**ness, -limity** /səˈblɪməti/ — *n* [U]

sub·lim·i·nal /sʌbˈlɪmənəl/ *adj* (shown) at a level of the mind which the senses are not conscious of: *Subliminal advertising on television* (=that is shown for too short a time for one to be conscious of it) *has been banned.*

sub·ma·chine gun /ˌsʌbməˈʃiːn gʌn/ *n* a light MACHINEGUN

sub·ma·rine[1] /ˈsʌbməriːn, ˌsʌbməˈriːn/ *adj tech* growing or used under or in the sea: *submarine plant life* | *a submarine cable*

submarine[2] also **sub** *infml*— *n* a ship, esp. a warship, which can stay under water: *a nuclear submarine*

sub·mar·i·ner /sʌbˈmærɪnəʳ‖ˈsʌbməriːnər/ *n* a sailor working and living in a submarine

submarine sand·wich /ˈ··· ˌ··/ also **sub**— *n AmE* a long bread roll split open and filled with meat, cheese, etc.

sub·merge /səbˈmɜːdʒ‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [(**in**)] **1** [I;T] to (cause to) go under the surface of water: *At the first sign of danger the submarine will submerge.* | *You have to submerge the photographic plates in the fluid.* | *dangerous submerged rocks* **2** [T] to cover or completely hide: *Her happiness at seeing him submerged her former worries.* | *the submerged two-thirds of the population* (=those who are not noticed, and esp. have fewer advantages than the rest) |

(fig.) *I'm absolutely submerged in work.* (=have a very large amount to do)

sub·mer·si·ble /səb'mɜːsəbəl‖-ɜːr-/ *n, adj tech* (a boat) which can go under water

sub·mer·sion /səb'mɜːʃən‖-'mɜːrʒən/ also **sub·mer·gence** /səb'mɜːdʒəns‖-ɜːr-/— *n* [U (**in**)] the act of submerging or state of being submerged

sub·mis·sion /səb'mɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C; U] **a** (an act of) submitting or being submitted: *He battered his opponent into submission.* | *June the third is the last date for submission of entries for the competition.* **b** [C] something submitted: *The magazine welcomes submissions from its readers.* **2** [U] *fml* what one thinks and wishes to state; opinion: **In my submission** (=I think) *these proposals are completely unworkable.* **3** [U (**to**)] *fml* obedience: *I shall give up my claim, in submission to your wishes.* **4** [C] *law* something offered for consideration, esp. a request or suggestion: *The court has received submissions from both parties to the dispute.* [+*that*] *The lawyer made a submission that her client be allowed full costs.*

sub·mis·sive /səb'mɪsɪv/ *adj* gentle and (too) willing to obey orders: *He expects his wife to be meek and submissive.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

sub·mit /səb'mɪt/ *v* **-tt-** **1** [I (**to**)] to admit defeat: *He was losing the fight but he would not submit.* **2** [T (**to**)] to offer for consideration: *We are submitting the proposal to the committee for their approval.* | *They submitted a tender for the contract.* **3** [T+(*that*); *obj*] *fml or law* to suggest or say: *My lord, I respectfully submit that the prosecution has failed to prove its case.* **4** [T (**to**)] *fml* to allow (oneself) to agree to obey: *We will submit ourselves to the court's judgment.*

sub·nor·mal /ˌsʌb'nɔːməl‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* less than is usual, average, etc., esp. in the abilities of the mind: *He was born subnormal and will never learn to read.* | *subnormal temperatures*

sub·or·bit·al /sʌb'ɔːbɪtl‖-'ɔːr-/ *adj tech* of or being less than one complete ORBIT (=journey round the Earth or a similar body in space): *a suborbital space flight*

sub·or·di·nate[1] /sə'bɔːdɪnət‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* [(**to**)] of a lower rank or position; less important: *All other considerations are subordinate to our need for steady profits.*

subordinate[2] *n* someone who is of lower rank in a job, and takes orders from his or her SUPERIOR (=the person higher in rank): *He treats his subordinates very badly.* — compare INFERIOR[2]

sub·or·din·ate[3] /sə'bɔːdɪneɪt‖-ɔːr-/ *v* [T (**to**)] to put in a position of less importance: *He subordinated his wishes to the general good of the group.* —**-ation** /səˌbɔːdɪ'neɪʃən‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U]

subordinate clause /·ˌ··· '·/ *n* a DEPENDENT CLAUSE

sub·orn /sə'bɔːn‖-ɔːrn/ *v* [T] *fml* to persuade (someone) to do wrong, esp. to tell lies in a court of law, usu. for payment: *The penalties for attempting to suborn witnesses are heavy.* —**~ation** /ˌsʌbɔː'neɪʃən‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U]

sub·plot /'sʌbplɒt‖-plɑːt/ *n* a PLOT (=set of events) that is of less importance than and separate from the main plot of a play, story, etc.

sub·poe·na[1] /sə'piːnə, səb-/ *n law* a written order to attend a court of law

subpoena[2] *v* **-naed** [T] *law* to order to attend a court by means of a subpoena: *The defence has subpoenaed three witnesses.*

sub-post·mas·ter /ˌ· '···/ **sub-postmistress** *fem. n* in Britain, a person who runs a sub-post office

sub-post of·fice /ˌ· '· ˌ··/ *n* a post office in Britain that is not wholly owned by the government and that offers fewer services than a main post office. Sub-post offices are often part of a larger shop and they are usu. found in small villages or in areas of large towns far away from the main post office.

sub·rou·tine /ˌsʌbruː'tiːn/ *n tech* a part of a computer PROGRAM containing a set of instructions for performing a particular operation, which can be used repeatedly in the program

sub·scribe /səb'skraɪb/ *v* [(**to**)] **1** [I] *esp. BrE* to pay money regularly (in support of some good aim): *We subscribe to an animal protection society.* **2** [T] *esp. BrE* to give (money): *Everyone in the office subscribed a couple of pounds towards his wedding present.* **3** [I] to pay regularly in order to receive a magazine, newspaper, etc.: *I subscribe to "Time" magazine.* **4** [T] *fml* to sign (one's name): *I subscribed my name to the document.* [+*obj*+*n*] *I subscribed myself F. Smith.*

subscribe for sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to agree to pay or buy: *I've subscribed for £1000 (worth of shares).*

subscribe to sthg. *phr v* [T *often in questions and negatives*] to agree with; approve of: *I've never subscribed to the theory that people are more important than animals.*

sub·scrib·er /səb'skraɪbəʳ/ *n* **1** someone who subscribes or has subscribed: *a special Christmas offer to the magazine's subscribers* **2** someone who receives the use of a service over a period of time, for which they pay: *a telephone subscriber*

sub·scrip·tion /səb'skrɪpʃən/ *n* **1** also **sub** *BrE infml*— an amount of money given, esp. regularly, for membership of a society, in order to receive a magazine, etc.: *Have you paid your annual subscription yet?* | *a cable television service financed by subscriptions* **2** an agreement to pay regularly for something: *a subscription concert* (=only for people who pay to go regularly)

sub·sec·tion /'sʌbsekʃən/ *n* a part of a SECTION

sub·se·quent /'sʌbsɪkwənt/ *adj* coming after or following something else: *We made plans for a visit, but subsequent difficulties with the car prevented it.* [F+**to**] *The events I'm speaking of were subsequent to* (=after) *the war.* —**~ly** *adv*: *He said he was a wealthy aristocrat, but it subsequently* (=afterwards) *emerged that he was an impostor.* —compare CONSEQUENT

sub·ser·vi·ent /səb'sɜːviənt‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* [(**to**)] **1** *derog* habitually willing to do what others want; tending to obey others' wishes: *a subservient waiter|manner* **2** *fml* less important; SUBORDINATE: *All other considerations are subservient to the need for quick profit.* —**~ly** *adv* —**-ence** *n* [U]

sub·set /'sʌbset/ *n* a set that is part of a larger set esp. in MATHEMATICS

sub·side /səb'saɪd/ *v* [I] **1** (of a building) to sink gradually further into the ground **2** (of land) to have its surface fall suddenly to a lower level because of lack of support: *After the heavy rains part of the road subsided.* | (fig.) *She subsided wearily into a chair.* **3** (of bad weather or other violent or unusual conditions) to return to its usual level; become less: *The floods subsided.* (=went down) | *The wind subsided.* (=became less strong and gradually stopped) | *His anger quickly subsided.* | *The high demand for housing in the area is expected to subside.*

sub·si·dence /səb'saɪdəns, 'sʌbsɪdəns/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) subsiding or the state of having subsided; sinking of land or buildings: *Is your house insured against subsidence?*

sub·sid·i·ar·i·ty /səbˌsɪdi'ærɪti/ *n* [U] a political POLICY in which more power, e.g. to make decisions, is given to smaller groups of people, esp. more power is taken away from the European Community and given the countries who belong to the Community so that they can make their own decisions

sub·sid·i·a·ry[1] /səb'sɪdiəri‖-dieri/ *adj* [(**to**)] connected with but of less importance than the main plan, work, company, etc.: *Can I ask a subsidiary question?* (=one that is connected with and follows on from my first one) | *subsidiary details*

subsidiary[2] *n* a company of which more than 50 per cent is owned by the parent company or whose board of directors is controlled by the parent company: *James Capel is a subsidiary of Hong Kong Bank.*

sub·si·dize also **-dise** *BrE* /'sʌbsɪdaɪz/ *v* [T] (of someone other than the buyer) to pay part of the cost of (something) for (someone), usu. to keep cost to the buyer low or to help a service, organization, etc., which has not got enough money: *subsidized school meals* | *Farming is partly subsidized by the government.* | *The local authority is subsidizing the transport service.* —**-dizer** *n* —**-dization** /ˌsʌbsɪdaɪ'zeɪʃən‖-də-/ *n* [U]

sub·si·dy /'sʌbsɪdi/ *n* money paid, esp. by the government or an organization, to make prices lower, make it cheaper to produce goods, etc.: *This industry depends for its survival on government subsidies.* | *trade subsidies*

sub·sist /səb'sɪst/ *v* [I (**on**)] *fml* to keep alive, esp. when having only small amounts of money or food: *They subsisted on bread and water|on £25 a week.*

sub·sis·tence /səb'sɪstəns/ *n* [U] **1** the ability to live, esp.

with little money or food: *Subsistence is not possible in such conditions.* **2** living with the smallest amount (of food or money) necessary: *a subsistence allowance* | *subsistence farmers* (=who produce just enough food to live on)

subsistence crop /·'·· ·/ *n* a crop grown for use by the grower rather than for sale —compare CASH CROP

subsistence lev·el /·'·· ˌ··/ *n* [S] a very poor standard of living, which only provides those things which are absolutely necessary and nothing more: *Many of the poorer farmers live at subsistence level.*

sub·soil /'sʌbsɔɪl/ *n* [U] the lower level of soil, with larger grains than that on the surface, but above the hard rock

sub·son·ic /ˌsʌb'sɒnɪk◂ ‖ -'sɑː-/ *adj* below the speed of sound: *subsonic flight* | *a subsonic airliner* —compare SUPERSONIC

sub·stance /'sʌbstəns/ *n* **1** [C] a material; type of matter: *a sticky substance* | *radioactive substances* | *manufacturers of diethylene glycol, a substance used in antifreeze for car engines* | *Heroin is an illegal substance.* **2** [U] *fml* truth: *There is no substance in the rumours that the princess is pregnant.* | *The rumours are completely without substance.* **3** [(*the*) U (**of**)] *fml* the real meaning, without the unimportant details; ESSENCE: *His speech meandered on for half an hour, but the substance of what he said was/what he said* **in substance** *was that too many people have too little money.* **4** [U] *fml* importance, esp. in relation to real life: *Instead of endlessly debating points of procedure, why aren't we discussing matters of substance?* | *It was an amusing speech, but without much substance.* (=without important or serious ideas, etc.) **5** [U] *fml or lit* wealth: *a man of substance*

sub·stan·dard /ˌsʌb'stændəd◂ ‖-ərd/ *adj* not as good as the average; not of an acceptable sort: *substandard work/materials* —compare NONSTANDARD (1), STANDARD

sub·stan·tial /səb'stænʃəl/ *adj* **1** solid; strongly made: *a substantial mahogany desk* **2** large enough to be satisfactory: *a substantial meal/salary* **3** large enough to be noticeable or to have an important effect: *They made substantial changes to the arrangements.* **4** [A] concerning the important part or meaning: *Though they disagreed on details, they were in substantial agreement over the plan.* **5** *fml* wealthy: *a very substantial family in the wool trade*

sub·stan·tial·ly /səb'stænʃəli/ *adv* **1** mainly; in the important part: *There are one or two minor differences, but they're substantially the same.* **2** quite a lot: *Your contribution helped us substantially.*

sub·stan·ti·ate /səb'stænʃieɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to prove the truth of (something said, claimed, etc.): *Can you substantiate your claim in a court of law?* —**-ation** /səbˌstænʃi'eɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *evidence produced in substantiation of her allegations*

sub·stan·tive[1] /'sʌbstəntɪv/ *n tech* a noun —**-tival** /ˌsʌbstən'taɪvəl◂/ *adj*

sub·stan·tive[2] /səb'stæntɪv, 'sʌbstəntɪv/ *adj fml or tech* **1** having reality, actuality, or importance; firm: *substantive discussions* (=in which subjects of importance are discussed and progress is made) | *It was a lengthy speech but he made few substantive points.* **2** (in grammar) expressing existence: *The substantive verb is "to be".* **3** [A] real and continuing, rather than lasting for only a limited time: *the substantive rank of colonel* — ~**ly** *adv*

sub·sta·tion /'sʌbˌsteɪʃən/ *n* a place where electricity is passed on from a generating (GENERATE) station into the general system

sub·sti·tute[1] /'sʌbstɪˌtjuːt‖-tuːt/ *n* [(**for**)] a person or thing acting or used in place of another: *The leading singer couldn't appear, and her substitute clearly didn't know the role very well.* | *The recipe calls for butter, but you can use margarine as a substitute.* | *England brought on their substitute (player) when one of their players got injured.* | *This is the only genuine sort; accept no substitutes.* | **There's no substitute for** *sensible eating and exercise* (=they are the best things) *if you want to keep fit.* | *a substitute teacher* | *sugar or a sugar substitute, such as saccharin*

substitute[2] *v* [(**for**)] **1** [T] to put (something or someone) in place of another: *We substituted red balls for blue, to see if the baby would notice.* | *Those on slimming diets should substitute the sugar with saccharin/substitute saccharin for the sugar.* **2** [I] to act as a substitute; be used instead: *He substituted for the worker who was ill.* —see REPLACE (USAGE) —**-tution** /ˌsʌbstɪ'tjuːʃən‖-'tuː-/ *n* [C;U (**for**)] : *The England manager made two substitutions in the second half.* | *The substitution of wine for water would improve the taste of the stew.*

sub·stra·tum /'sʌbˌstrɑːtəm‖-ˌstreɪ-/ *n* **-ta** /tə/ a level (STRATUM) lying beneath another, esp. in the earth: *a substratum of rock* | (fig.) *a substratum* (=hidden quality) *of truth in the argument*

sub·struc·ture /'sʌbˌstrʌktʃəʳ/ *n* a solid base underground which supports something above ground

sub·sume /səb'sjuːm‖-'suːm/ *v* [T (**under**)] *fml* to include as a member of a group or type: *For purposes of the survey, typists are subsumed under office workers.*

sub·ten·ant /ˌsʌb'tenənt/ *n* a person to whom a place is SUBLET by the TENANT; person who pays rent to the original renter

sub·tend /səb'tend/ *v* [T] *tech* (in GEOMETRY) to have (the stated angle or ARC) opposite to it: *This side of the triangle subtends an angle of 30 degrees.*

sub·ter·fuge /'sʌbtəfjuːdʒ‖-ər-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (deceit by) a secret trick or slightly dishonest way of doing something: *We had to resort to a little harmless subterfuge to organize her birthday treat without her finding out about it.*

sub·ter·ra·ne·an /ˌsʌbtə'reɪniən◂/ *adj* beneath the surface of the Earth; underground: *subterranean rivers*

sub·ti·tle /'sʌbˌtaɪtl/ *n* a less important title printed beneath the main title of a book

sub·ti·tled /'sʌbˌtaɪtld/ *adj* having subtitles or the stated subtitle: *He wrote "My Years on the Bench", subtitled "Autobiography of a Judge".*

sub·ti·tles /'sʌbˌtaɪtlz/ *n* [P] words printed over a film in a foreign language to translate what is being said: *a French film with English subtitles*

sub·tle /'sʌtl/ *adj* **1** delicate; not easy to notice, understand, or explain: *a subtle taste* | *subtle differences in meaning* | *His attempt to offer us a bribe was not exactly subtle.* (=he did not hide his intentions well) **2** clever in arrangement, esp. so as to deceive people: *a subtle plan* **3** very clever in noticing and understanding: *a subtle mind* —**-tly** *adv* : *subtly different*

sub·tle·ty /'sʌtlti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being subtle: *He argued his case with considerable subtlety.* **2** [C *often pl.*] a subtle idea, thought, or detail: *I think the translator missed some of the subtleties of the original.*

sub·to·tal /'sʌbˌtəʊtl/ *n* the total of a single set of figures, esp. on a bill, which will be added to others to form a whole total

sub·tract /səb'trækt/ *v* [T (**from**)] to take (a number, amount, etc.) from something larger: *If you subtract 10 from 30 you get 20.* —compare ADD (2), DEDUCT

sub·trac·tion /səb'trækʃən/ *n* [U] the act of subtracting or state of being subtracted —compare ADDITION

sub·trop·i·cal /ˌsʌb'trɒpɪkəl◂‖-'trɑː-/ also **semitropical**— *adj* of or suited to an area near the tropics: *a subtropical climate* | *subtropical vegetation*

sub·urb /'sʌbɜːb‖-ɜːrb/ *n* [(**of**)] an outer area of a town or city, where people live: *Blackheath is a suburb of London.* —see also SUBURBS

sub·ur·ban /sə'bɜːbən‖-ɜːr-/ *adj often derog* of, for, or in the suburbs, esp. as considered dull or unimaginative: *a suburban railway* | *suburban streets with houses all the same* | *suburban life* | *suburban attitudes* —see colour picture on page 0000

sub·ur·ban·ite /sə'bɜːbənaɪt‖-ɜːr-/ *n infml, often derog* a person who lives in the suburbs

sub·ur·bi·a /sə'bɜːbiə‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] *often derog* (the behaviour, opinions, and ways of living typical of people who live in) the suburbs

sub·urbs /'sʌbɜːbz‖-ɜːr-/ ‖ also **burbs** *AmE infml*— [*the*+P] the area on the edge of a city, where most people live, as opposed to the shopping and business centre.

► CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and the US, the suburbs are generally thought of as an area where middle-class families live. They are also thought of as being dull and unimaginative: *a semi-detached house in the suburbs of Manchester*◄

sub·ven·tion /səb'venʃən/ *n fml* a SUBSIDY or gift of money for a special use

sub·ver·sive[1] /səb'vɜːsɪv‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* (dangerous because) trying or likely to destroy established ideas and take power away from those at present in control, esp. secretly: *The government is trying to ban this magazine because it prints subversive ideas.* | *a subversive influence* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

subversive[2] *n* a subversive person

sub·vert /səb'vɜːt‖-ɜːrt/ *v* [T] *fml* to try to destroy the power and influence of (a government, an established system, etc.) —**version** /səb'vɜːʃən‖-'vɜːrʒən/ *n* [U]

sub·way /'sʌbweɪ/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **underpass** *AmE*— a path under a road or railway by which it can be safely crossed **2** *AmE for* UNDERGROUND railway —compare METRO, TUBE (4)

suc·ceed /sək'siːd/ *v* **1** [I (**in**)] to do what one has tried or wanted to do: *If you try hard you'll succeed.* | *Police have finally succeeded in solving the mystery.* | *The first time she took the exam she failed, but the second time she succeeded (in passing).* | (fig., *humor*) *I tried to pick all the bottles up together, but succeeded only in dropping* (=failed and dropped) *all of them.* —see COULD (USAGE) **2** [I] to be done or completed as one had wished, with a favourable result: *I don't think his later novels succeed as well as his earlier ones.* | *Our plan succeeded, and soon we were in complete control.* **3** [I] to do well in life, esp. in gaining high position or popularity: *She's the type of person who succeeds anywhere.* **4** [I (**to**);T (**as**)] to be the next to take a position or rank (after): *When the duke dies, his eldest son will succeed to the title.* | *Lord Davis succeeded Sir Hugh as chairman of the commission.* **5** [T] *fml* to follow; come after: *A silence succeeded his words.* | *The company are developing a new generation of computers to succeed their existing range.* **6 If at first you don't succeed, try, try, and try again** an old saying

suc·cess /sək'ses/ *n* **1** [U (**in**)] a degree of succeeding; a good result: *Did you have any success* (=did you succeed) *in persuading her to change her mind?* | *His career has been a real* **success story;** *from office boy to millionaire in five years.* | *We tried to get them to agree, but without much success.* | *a low success rate* **2** [C] a person or thing that succeeds or has succeeded: *His new book|play was a great success|an overnight success.* | *She's just started up a new company; I hope she* **makes a success of it.** | *In spite of our doubts, the new secretary has proved a great success.*

suc·cess·ful /sək'sesfəl/ *adj* **1** [(**in**)] having done what one has tried to do: *Were you successful* (=did you succeed) *in persuading him to change his mind?* | *I'm afraid my attempt to make a cake wasn't very successful.* | *a very successful performance* | *successful peace talks* **2** having gained a high position in life, one's job, etc.: *They're advertising luxury apartments ideal for the successful young executive.* —opposite **unsuccessful** —~**ly** *adv*

suc·ces·sion /sək'seʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of following one after the other: *The days followed each other in quick|close succession and still no news came.* | *It happened four times* **in succession.** (=successively) **2** [S (**of**)+*sing.|pl. v*] a number of people or things following each other closely: *A succession of visitors came to the door.* **3** [U (**to**)] the act of succeeding (SUCCEED (4)) to an office or position: *In the event of the heir's death, the succession passes to his brother.* | *her succession to the throne* —compare ACCESSION

suc·ces·sive /sək'sesɪv/ *adj* following each other closely: *It happened on two successive days.* | *successive waves of invaders* —~**ly** *adv*

suc·ces·sor /sək'sesəʳ/ *n* **1** [(**as, to**)] a person who takes an office or position formerly held by someone else: *My successor as chairman takes over next week.* **2** *fml* a person or thing that comes after another: *The transistor seemed astounding enough when it was introduced, but its successor, the microchip, is immeasurably more powerful.* —compare PREDECESSOR

success sto·ry /·'· ˌ··/ *n* (an account of) a person's development from being poor and unknown to being rich, famous, and successful

suc·cinct /sək'sɪŋkt/ *adj apprec* clearly expressed in few words: *a very succinct explanation|style* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

suc·co·tash /'sʌkətæʃ/ *n* [U] *AmE* a dish made from CORN and LIMA BEANS cooked together

suc·cour[1] *BrE* ‖ **-cor** *AmE* /'sʌkəʳ/ *n* [U] *fml or lit* help given to someone in difficulty

succour[2] *BrE* ‖ **-cor** *AmE*— *v* [T] *fml or lit* to help (someone in difficulty): *succouring the needy*

suc·cu·bus /'sʌkjʊbəs/ *n* **-bi** /baɪ/ a female devil supposed to have sex with a sleeping man —compare INCUBUS

suc·cu·lent[1] /'sʌkjʊlənt/ *adj* **1** *apprec* juicy: *a succulent steak* **2** *tech* (of a plant) having thick soft leaves or stems that can hold a lot of liquid —**lence** *n* [U]

succulent[2] *n tech* a SUCCULENT[1] (2) plant, such as a CACTUS

suc·cumb /sə'kʌm/ *v* [I (**to**)] *fml* **1** to stop opposing; give in (to greater strength or force, a desire, etc.): *After an artillery bombardment lasting several days the town finally succumbed.* | *They held out for some hours in the face of our persuasive offers, but eventually they succumbed.* | *to succumb to temptation|blackmail* **2** to die (because of): *He finally succumbed to the illness.*

such[1] /sʌtʃ/ *predeterminer, determiner* **1** (sometimes with **as**) of that kind; of the same kind; like that: *People such as him|Such people as him shouldn't be allowed in here.* | *The regulations apply to all such hospitals.* (=all hospitals of the type described) | *We've planted lots of different flowers,* **such as** (=for example) *roses, carnations, and poppies.* | *He said "Get out!" or* **some such** *rude remark.* | *"Can I speak to Alice Smith?" "***No such** *person* (=no one called Alice Smith) *lives here."* **2** (sometimes with **as** or **that**) so great; so good, bad, or unusual: *He's such a kind man.* (=he is very kind) | *She tells such funny jokes.* | *It was such a lovely day we decided to go for a picnic.* | *It wasn't such a hard exam after all.* | (*fml*) *The force of the explosion was such that it blew out all the windows|was such as to blow out all the windows.* | *The explosion blew out all the windows, such was its force.* **3 such** ... **as** *fml* any that: *Such accommodation as she could find was expensive.* **4 such as it is|they are** although it|they may not be worth much: *You can borrow my exam notes, such as they are.* (=they are not very good) —compare **for what it's worth** (WORTH[1])

▷ USAGE In general, **such** comes before nouns, or before adjectives followed by nouns. **So** comes before adjectives alone, or before *much, many, few.* Compare **such** and **so** in these examples: **a** *It was* **such** *an interesting meeting.* | *The meeting was* **so** *interesting.* **b** *There were* **such** *a lot of people.* | *There were* **so** *many people.* **c** *It was* **such** *a shock.* | *It was* **so** *shocking.* But note also these patterns: *His courage was* **such** *that ...* | *His courage was* **so** *great that ...* **such** *a nice man*; also **so** *nice a man* (*fml*).◁

such[2] *pron* **1** *fml* that thing, fact, or action: *We had predicted a Welsh victory, and such indeed was the result.* **2 and such** *infml* and SUCHLIKE[2] **3 as such** properly so named; in the exact meaning of the stated thing: *It's not an agreement as such, but it will have virtually the same effect as one.* **4 such as** *fml* any people or things that; those that: *Such (of you) as wish to leave may do so.*

such and such /'·· ˌ·/ *predeterminer infml* a certain (time, amount, etc.) not named: *If they tell you to come on such and such a day, don't agree if it's not convenient.*

such·like[1] /'sʌtʃlaɪk/ *adj* [A] of that kind; similar: *tennis and cricket and suchlike summer sports*

suchlike[2] *pron infml* things of that kind: *Do you enjoy plays, films, and suchlike?*

Su-chou /ˌsuː'tʃaʊ/ see SUZHOU

suck[1] /sʌk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to draw (liquid) into the mouth by using the tongue, lips, and muscles at the side of the mouth, with the lips tightened into a small hole: *a baby sucking at its mother's breast* | *She was sucking milk through a straw.* **2** [I (AWAY, **at**); T] to hold (something) in the mouth and move one's tongue against it, esp. so as to melt and eat it: *He was sucking (away at) a sweet.* | *The baby was sucking its thumb.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to draw powerfully: *They fell overboard into the sea, and the powerful currents sucked them under.* | (fig.) *Britain's high interest rates are sucking in a lot of foreign money.* | (fig.) *Gullible people can easily get sucked into dishonest schemes by unscrupulous tricksters.* **4** [I] *AmE sl not polite* to be extremely disagreeable or unacceptable: *This film really sucks.*

suck up *phr v* [I (**to**)] *BrE infml derog* to try to make

oneself liked, esp. by unnaturally nice behaviour to someone: *She's always sucking up to her teacher.*

suck[2] *n* an act of sucking: *He had a suck of his ice lolly.*

suck·er /ˈsʌkəʳ/ *n* **1** a person or thing that sucks **2** an organ by which an animal can hold on to a surface: *This fly has suckers on its feet.* **3** a flat piece of soft material, e.g. rubber, which sticks to a surface by SUCTION: *You stick this hook to the wall with a sucker, then hang something from it.* **4** a piece of new plant growth coming out through the ground from the root or lower stem of a plant **5** [**(for)**] *infml* **a** a person who is easily deceived or tricked: *You're a sucker to believe his stories!* **b** someone who likes the stated thing so much that they cannot refuse it: *I'm a sucker for ice cream.* | *He's a sucker for beautiful women.* (=is so attracted by them that they can easily take advantage of his fondness) **6** *AmE for* LOLLIPOP

sucking pig /ˈ·· ·/ also **suckling pig**– *n* [C;U] (a) young pig still taking milk from its mother, esp. as cooked and eaten on special occasions

suck·le /ˈsʌkəl/ *v* [I;T] **a** to feed (a baby or young animal) with milk from the breast: *a sheep suckling her lamb* **b** (of a baby or young animal) to suck milk from the breast (of) –compare BREAST-FEED, NURSE[2] (3)

suck·ling /ˈsʌklɪŋ/ *n lit or old use* a young human or animal still taking milk from the mother

su·crose /ˈsuːkrəʊz, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the common form of sugar

suc·tion /ˈsʌkʃən/ *n* [U] the act of removing air or liquid from a container or from between two surfaces so that either **a** another gas or liquid enters or **b** the two surfaces stick together because of the pressure of the air outside: *Dirt and dust are drawn into a vacuum cleaner by suction.* | *It's stuck to the wall with a* **suction cap** *BrE*‖**cup** *AmE.* (=a small usu. round piece of rubber or plastic that works by suction)

suction pump /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a pump which works by removing air to make a VACUUM, so that the material to be pumped is sucked in

Su·dan /suˈdæn, -ˈdɑːn/ [*the*] a country in NE Africa, the largest country in Africa; capital Khartoum; population 24,485,000 (1989)

Su·dan·ese /ˌsuːdəˈniːz◂/ *n* [*the* +P] people from the Sudan –**Sudanese** *adj*

sud·den /ˈsʌdn/ *adj* **1** happening, coming, or done quickly and unexpectedly: *a sudden illness* | *a sudden change of plan* | *a sudden sharp increase in the cost of oil* | *This marriage is very sudden – they've only known each other a few weeks.* **2 all of a sudden** *infml* suddenly – ~**ly** *adv* : *I suddenly remembered that I hadn't locked the door.* | *We were talking on the phone when, suddenly, the line went dead.* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

sudden death /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] an additional period of play in a sport to decide which player or team is the winner. The sudden death ends as soon as one player or team gains the lead: *Nick Faldo won the Open golf championship after a sudden death play-off.*

Sudden In·fant Death Syn·drome /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ also **SIDS**– *n* [U] *tech* a formal name for COT DEATH

Su·de·ten·land /suːˈdeɪtənlænd/ [*the*] an area in N Czechoslovakia which was taken over by Germany under Hitler in 1938, just before the Second World War

suds /sʌdz/ also **soapsuds**– *n* [P] the mass of small balls of air (BUBBLES) formed on the top of soapy water –**sudsy** *adj*

sue /sjuː‖suː/ *v* [I;T (**for**)] to make a legal claim (against), esp. for an amount of money, because of some loss or damage that one has suffered: *If you don't return our property, we'll sue.* | *He was sued for* (=because of) *libel|malpractice|breach of contract.* | *I'll sue them for* (=in order to get) *every penny they've got.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Suing is esp. common in the US. One may sue a doctor who has not given proper treatment. Employees may sue their employers for **workmen's compensation** if they have an accident at work. One may sue a driver who has caused a traffic accident. Even a homeowner can be sued if a visitor falls and gets hurt due to the owner's carelessness.◄

sue for sthg. *phr v* [I] *fml* to beg or ask for: *The other side realize they are beaten, and are* **suing for peace.**

suede , suède /sweɪd/ *n* [U] soft leather with a rough surface: *suede shoes*

Sue El·len /ˌsuː ˈelən/ a character in the American television SERIES *Dallas*, the wife of JR Ewing, known for drinking and crying a lot

su·et /ˈsuːɨt, ˈsjuːɨt‖ˈsuː-/ *n* [U] hard fat from round an animal's KIDNEYS, used in cooking – ~**y** *adj*

suet pud·ding /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a sweet dish made with fruit and suet and usu. steamed, considered to be a TRADITIONAL British dish and now thought by many people to be too heavy and filling

Su·ez /ˈsuːɪz‖ˌsuːˈez◂/ a port in NE Egypt, at the S end of the Suez Canal

Suez Ca·nal /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] a CANAL in NE Egypt which joins the Mediterranean Sea with the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. It is an important path for the shipping trade.

Suez Cri·sis /ˈ·· ˌ··‖·ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] an event in 1956 in which Britain and France sent ships and soldiers to the area around the Suez Canal after Egypt had declared that it was going to NATIONALIZE the canal. The United Nations and many countries in the world opposed Britain's action, and the ships and soldiers left later in the year. It was seen by many British people as a serious defeat for Britain and a sign that Britain was no longer an important world power.

suf·fer /ˈsʌfəʳ/ *v* **1** [I (**for**)] to experience pain, difficulty, or loss: *He died very quickly; he didn't suffer much.* | *She was very generous to him but she suffered for it when he ran away with all her money.* | *If the factory closes, the other local businesses are bound to suffer too.* **2** [T] to experience or have to deal with (something painful or unpleasant): *If you break the law, you must be prepared to suffer the consequences.* | *The army suffered heavy losses* (=many soldiers were killed) *in the battle.* | *She suffered multiple injuries in the car accident.* | *He suffered the humiliation of being forced to resign.* | *to suffer a defeat|a setback* –see also SUFFER **from** **3** [I] to become gradually worse; lessen in quality, esp. through lack of care and attention: *He started drinking a lot and his work suffered.* **4** [T] *fml* to accept without dislike or complaint; TOLERATE: *He doesn't* **suffer fools (gladly).** **5** [T+*obj*+*to-v*] *old use* to allow –see also LONGSUFFERING

suffer from sthg. *phr v* [T] to experience (something unpleasant, such as an illness), esp. over a long period of time or habitually: *She suffers from headaches.* | *Our business has suffered from lack of investment.*

suf·fer·ance /ˈsʌfərəns/ *n* **on sufferance** *fml* with permission, though not welcomed: *He's here on sufferance.*

suf·fer·er /ˈsʌfərəʳ/ *n* a person who suffers, esp. from the stated illness: *headache sufferers*

suf·fer·ing /ˈsʌfərɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] (an experience of) pain and difficulty generally: *the suffering of innocent people caused by war* | *She bore her sufferings bravely.*

suf·fice /səˈfaɪs/ *v* [*not in progressive forms*] *fml* **1** [I (**for**)] to be enough; provide what is needed: *Her income suffices for her needs.* **2** [T] (esp. of food) to be enough for; satisfy: *Some bread and soup will suffice me.* **3 suffice it to say (that)** *rather pomp* (used for suggesting that the short statement which follows is enough to express one's meaning): *I could mention other examples of your bad work, but suffice it to say that your performance has been unsatisfactory.*

suf·fi·cien·cy /səˈfɪʃənsi/ *n fml* **1** [U] the state of being or having enough **2** [S (**of**)] a supply which is enough

suf·fi·cient /səˈfɪʃənt/ *adj* [**(for)**] *rather fml* enough; as much as is needed for a purpose: *There was sufficient food for everybody.* [+*to-v*] *There were sufficient supplies to feed everybody.* | *There wasn't much food but it was sufficient for our needs.* | *We haven't got sufficient information from which to draw a conclusion.* –opposite **insufficient**; see ADEQUATE (USAGE), ENOUGH (USAGE)

suf·fix /ˈsʌfɪks/ *n* an AFFIX[2] added to the end of a word (as in kind*ness*, quick*ly*) –compare PREFIX[1] (1)

suf·fo·cate /ˈsʌfəkeɪt/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) die because of lack of air: *The baby suffocated under its pillow.* | (fig.) *Open a window; I'm suffocating in here!* (=because there is not enough fresh air) | (fig.) *the suffocating effect of so many rules and regulations* –**-cation** /ˌsʌfəˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Suf·folk /ˈsʌfək/ a COUNTY on the E coast of SE England

suf·fra·gan /ˈsʌfrəgən/ *adj* [A; after *n*] (of a BISHOP) helping

a bishop of higher rank in his work: *the suffragan bishop of Colchester | the bishop suffragan*

suf·frage /ˈsʌfrɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the right to vote in national elections.

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, women were first given the right to vote in 1918. In the US, black people were given the right to vote in 1868 by the **14th Amendment** to the CONSTITUTION. Women were given suffrage in 1920 by the **19th Amendment**: *When was* **universal suffrage** (= the right of everyone to vote) *introduced in your country?*◄

suf·fra·gette /ˌsʌfrəˈdʒet/ *n* (in Britain and the US in the early 20th century) a woman who was a member of a group that tried to obtain for women the right to vote, esp. by acts which brought public attention to their demands. In Britain, the suffragettes are remembered esp. for tying themselves to fences outside official buildings in London as a means of protest. —see also Emmeline PANKHURST

suffragette



suf·fuse /səˈfjuːz/ *v* [T] to cover or spread through, esp. with a colour or liquid: *The light of the setting sun suffused the clouds.* —**fusion** /səˈfjuːʒən/ *n* [U]

sug·ar[1] /ˈʃʊgəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] a sweet white or brown substance which is obtained from plants, esp. SUGARCANE and BEET, and used in food and drinks: *Do you take sugar in your coffee?* **2** [C] *tech* any of several sweet substances formed in plants —compare GLUCOSE **3** *infml, esp. AmE* (used when speaking to someone you like, usu. by a man to a woman) **4 sugar and spice and everything nice** a phrase from a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children) saying what little girls are made of

sugar[2] *v* [T] **1** to put sugar in; sweeten: *Did you sugar my tea?* **2 sugar the pill** to make something seem less unpleasant

sugar beet /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] BEET (1)

sug·ar·cane /ˈʃʊgəkeɪn‖-ər-/ *n* [U] a tall upright tropical plant from whose stems sugar (**cane sugar**) is obtained

sugar-coat·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* covered with sugar

sugar dad·dy /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n infml, usu. derog* an older man who provides a young woman with money and presents in return for sex or companionship

sugared al·mond /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a sweet made of a whole ALMOND (=type of nut) covered with hard (coloured) sugar

Sug·ar·loaf Moun·tain /ˌʃʊgələʊf ˈmaʊntɨn‖-gər-/ a mountain in Rio de Janeiro in SE Brazil

sugar lump /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a square piece of solid sugar

sugar ma·ple /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a kind of MAPLE tree that grows in the NE of the US. Liquid (SAP) taken from the tree is used as MAPLE SYRUP.

sug·ar·y /ˈʃʊgəri/ *adj* **1** containing sugar or tasting of sugar **2** *derog* too sweet, nice, kind, etc., in an insincere way: *poems full of sugary sentiments about love*

sug·gest /səˈdʒest‖səgˈdʒest/ *v* [T] **1** to mention as a possibility; state as an idea for consideration; PROPOSE: *I'd like to suggest an alternative plan.* [+*v-ing*/(*that*)] *I suggest leaving now/that we leave now.* [+*wh-*] *Can you suggest how we should do it?* **2** to give signs (of); make clear, perhaps indirectly; INDICATE: *Her expression suggested anger. | The disorganized meeting suggested a lack of proper planning.* [+*that*] *The latest figures suggest that business is improving.* **3** to cause (a new idea) to appear or form in the mind: *The sight of the vultures suggested the idea for his new horror film.*

sug·ges·ti·ble /səˈdʒestɨbəl‖səg-/ *adj* (of people) easily influenced: *a suggestible child | She's at a suggestible age.*

sug·ges·tion /səˈdʒestʃən‖səg-/ *n* **1** [C] something suggested: *Your suggestions are unworkable. | I'd like to make/offer a suggestion.* [+*that*] *He rejected my suggestion that we should appoint Roger.* —see REFUSE (USAGE) **2** [U] the act of suggesting: **At your suggestion** (=as you suggested) *I planted the tree over there.* **3** [S+**of**] a slight sign; TRACE: *I detected a suggestion of malice in his remarks.* **4** [S+**of**/*that*; *usu. in questions and negatives*] even an unlikely possibility: *There's never been any suggestion of his being allowed/that he will be allowed out of prison.* **5** [U] (in PSYCHOLOGY) an indirect way of causing an idea to be accepted by the mind, e.g. by HYPNOTISM

sug·ges·tive /səˈdʒestɪv‖səg-/ *adj* **1** which shows or seems to show thoughts of sex: *suggestive remarks* **2** [F+**of**] *fml* which leads the mind into a particular way of thinking: *It's an abstract painting suggestive of a desert landscape.* —~**ly** *adv*: *"Do you want to come upstairs?" she said suggestively.*

Su·har·to /suːˈhɑːtəʊ‖-ɑːr-/, **T N J** (1921–) an army general who became president of Indonesia in 1967

su·i·cid·al /ˌsuːɨˈsaɪdl◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of or with a tendency to suicide: *a hospital ward for suicidal patients* **2** wishing to kill oneself: *I was feeling positively suicidal.* **3** likely to lead to death or destruction: *They made a suicidal attempt to climb the mountain in terrible weather. | suicidal driving* —~**ly** *adv*

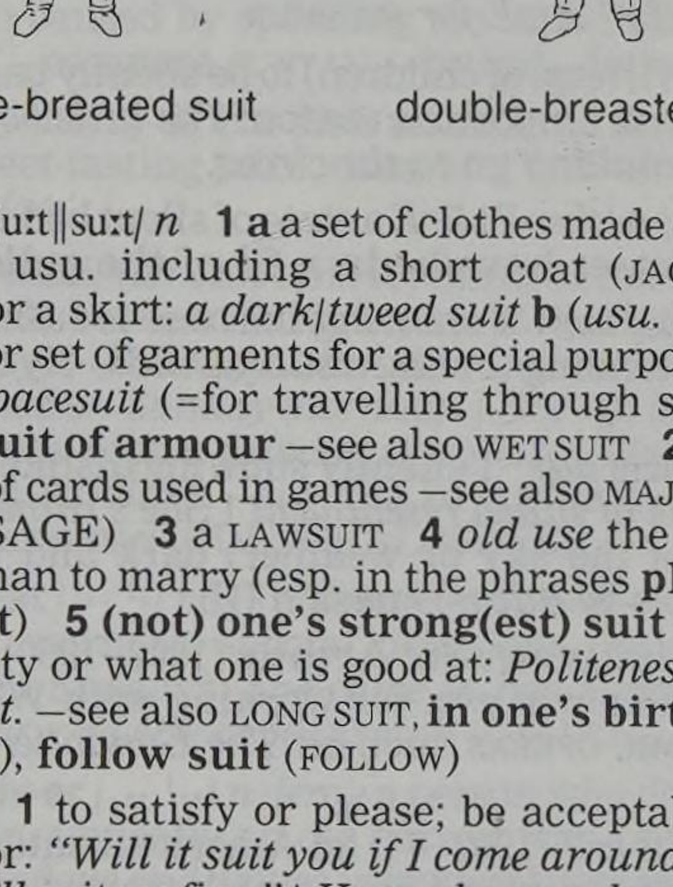
su·i·cide /ˈsuːɨsaɪd, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuː-/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act of killing oneself: *She tried to* **commit suicide**. | *The doctors pumped out her stomach after her attempted suicide.*

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and most American states it is not against the law to kill yourself, or to attempt suicide, but it is a crime to encourage or help someone else to do so, even if they want to do it and ask for your help.◄

2 [C] *law* a person who does this **3** [U] a course of action that destroys one's position: *It would be political suicide to hold an election now.*

suicide pact /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* an arrangement between two or more people to commit suicide at the same time

suits



single-breated suit double-breasted suit

suit[1] /suːt, sjuːt‖suːt/ *n* **1 a** a set of clothes made of the same material, usu. including a short coat (JACKET) with trousers or a skirt: *a dark/tweed suit* **b** (*usu. in comb.*) a garment or set of garments for a special purpose: *a swimsuit | a spacesuit* (=for travelling through space) | *the knight's* **suit of armour** —see also WET SUIT **2** any of the four sets of cards used in games —see also MAJOR SUIT; see CARDS (USAGE) **3** a LAWSUIT **4** *old use* the act of asking a woman to marry (esp. in the phrases **plead/press one's suit**) **5 (not) one's strong(est) suit** (not) one's best quality or what one is good at: *Politeness is not his strong suit.* —see also LONG SUIT, **in one's birthday suit** (BIRTHDAY), **follow suit** (FOLLOW)

suit[2] *v* [T] **1** to satisfy or please; be acceptable or convenient for: *"Will it suit you if I come around at three?" "Yes, that'll suit me fine." | He can be very charming when it suits him.* (=when it is to his advantage) **2** [*no pass.*] to match or look good on (someone): *That colour doesn't suit her.* **3** to have the right qualities or be of the right kind for; be APPROPRIATE for: *That song doesn't suit her voice. | These clothes aren't really suited to a tropical climate. | Jane and Steve are ideally suited (to each other).* **4 suit oneself** *infml* to do what one likes, esp. when that is different from what other people are doing: *"I don't really feel like going out tonight." "Suit yourself."* **5 suit someone down to the ground** to be very pleasing or very suitable for someone: *Mary's new job suits her down to the ground.* **6 suit someone's book** *BrE infml* to suit someone's plans

suit sthg. **to** sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to make something suitable for; ADAPT to: *to suit the punishment to the crime*

sui·ta·bil·i·ty /ˌsuːtəˈbɪlɨti, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *n* [U (**for**)] the fact or degree of being suitable: *There's no doubt about her suitability for the job.*

sui·ta·ble /ˈsuːtəbəl, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuː-/ *adj* [(**for, to**)] of the right type or quality for (a particular person, purpose, etc.): *Is she suitable for the job?* | *a suitable school for the children* | *(fml) a residence suitable to his important position* [+*to-v*] *Is this a suitable moment to break for a cup of coffee?* —opposite **unsuitable** — ~**ness** *n* [U] —**-bly** *adv* : *I pointed it out to her, and she looked suitably ashamed of herself.*

suit·case /ˈsuːtkeɪs, ˈsjuːt-‖ˈsuːt-/ also **case**— *n* a large container for carrying clothes and possessions when travelling, often in the form of a flat box: *Remember to label your suitcase before you go to the airport.*

suite /swiːt/ *n* **1** a set of matching furniture for a room: *a* **three-piece suite** (=a SETTEE and two chairs) | *a suite of dining-room furniture* | *a pink bathroom suite* (=a bath, TOILET, and WASHBASIN) **2** [(**of**)] a set of expensive rooms in a hotel: *She always has a suite at the Ritz when she comes to town.* **3** a piece of music with several loosely connected parts **4** [+*sing./pl. v*] the people who work for, advise, or help an important person: *the President and his suite* —see also RETINUE **5** [(**of**)] a group of related computer PROGRAMS which make up a set: *a full suite of business software including a word processing program and a spreadsheet*

suit·ing /ˈsuːtɪŋ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuː-/ *n* [U] *tech* material, esp. woven wool, for (men's) clothing

sui·tor /ˈsuːtəʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuː-/ *n esp. old use* a man wishing to marry a particular woman

su·ki·ya·ki /ˌsuːki ˈjɑːki/ *n* [U] a Japanese dish consisting of thin slices (SLICE) of meat, vegetables, etc. cooked in SOY SAUCE with sugar and Japanese rice wine (SAKE)

Suk·koth /ˈsʊkəʊt, -kəʊθ/ also **Feast of Tabernacles**— a Jewish FESTIVAL which celebrates the gathering of the crops, and remembers the time in Jewish history when small shelters (**sukkahs**) were made by the Jews when they were in the WILDERNESS

Sul·ei·man I /sʊlɪˌmɑːn ðə ˈfɜːst‖-ˈfɜːrst/ (?1494–1566) a Turkish ruler, also known as **Suleiman the Magnificent**, who greatly improved the Ottoman Empire in its government and CULTURE

sul·fa drug /ˈsʌlfə drʌg/ *AmE for* SULPHA DRUG

sul·fate /ˈsʌlfeɪt/ *AmE for* SULPHATE

sul·fide /ˈsʌlfaɪd/ *AmE for* SULPHIDE

sul·fur /ˈsʌlfəʳ/ *AmE for* SULPHUR

sulk /sʌlk/ *v* [I] (esp. of children) to be silently bad-tempered, esp. for an unimportant reason: *The little boy sulked because he couldn't go to the circus.*

sulks /sʌlks/ *n* [*the*+P] *BrE* a state of silent bad temper (esp. in the phrases **have/be in a fit of the sulks**)

sulk·y /ˈsʌlki/ *adj* **1** showing that one is sulking: *a sulky frown* **2** tending to sulk: *a sulky child* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

sul·len /ˈsʌlən/ *adj* **1** silently showing dislike or bad temper: *a look of sullen resentment* | *She's rather sullen.* **2** *esp. lit* (of the sky or weather) dark and unpleasant; GLOOMY — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

Sul·li·van /ˈsʌlɨvən/, **Sir Arthur** (1842–1900) an English COMPOSER known esp. for working with WS Gilbert to write COMIC OPERAS such as *The Gondoliers* and *HMS Pinafore*

Sullivan, Ed /ed/ (1902–74) an American entertainer who ran the *Ed Sullivan Show*, which started on television in 1948 and continued until the 1960s. The show was esp. popular with older people. Sullivan brought many MUSICIANS and COMEDIANS onto his show and it helped many of them to become famous. Many older Americans first saw the Beatles and the Rolling Stones on his show and this helped them to become popular in the US.

Sullivan, Louis Henry (1856–1924) an American ARCHITECT who worked in Chicago, building SKYSCRAPERS such as the Wainwright Building

Sul·lom Voe /ˌsʌləm ˈvəʊ/ the name of the largest oil TERMINAL in the Shetland islands in the north of Scotland

sul·ly /ˈsʌli/ *v* [T] *fml or lit* to spoil or reduce the (high) value or perfection of: *a scandal that sullied his reputation*

sul·pha drug *BrE*‖**-fa-** *AmE* /ˈsʌlfə drʌg/ also **sul·phon·a·mide** *BrE*‖**-fon-** *AmE* /sʌlˈfɒnəmaɪd‖-ˈfɑː-/ *n* any of a group of drugs used against diseases caused by bacteria

sul·phate *BrE* ‖ **-fate** *AmE* /ˈsʌlfeɪt/ *n* [C;U] a SALT¹ (2) formed from sulphuric acid: *copper sulphate*

sul·phide *BrE* ‖ **-fide** *AmE* /ˈsʌlfaɪd/ *n* [C;U] a mixture of sulphur with another substance: *sulphide of arsenic*

sul·phur *BrE* ‖ **-fur** *AmE* /ˈsʌlfəʳ/ *n* [U] a simple substance (ELEMENT) that is found in different forms, esp. as a light yellow powder

sulphur di·ox·ide /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] a heavy poisonous gas that is a cause of air POLLUTION in industrial areas

sul·phu·ric ac·id *BrE*‖**-fu-** *AmE* /sʌlˌfjʊərɪk ˈæsɨd/ *n* [U] a powerful acid —see also VITRIOL

sul·phu·rous *BrE* ‖ **-fu-** *AmE* /ˈsʌlfərəs/ *adj* of, like, or with sulphur

sul·tan /ˈsʌltən/ *n* (*often cap.*) a ruler in some Muslim countries, esp. in former times

sul·ta·na /sʌlˈtɑːnə‖-ˈtænə/ *n* **1** a small seedless kind of RAISIN (=dried fruit) used in cakes, etc. **2** (*often cap.*) the wife, mother, or daughter of a sultan

sul·tan·ate /ˈsʌltəneɪt, -nɨt/ *n* **1** a country ruled by a sultan: *the sultanate of Oman* **2** the position of a sultan or the period of a sultan's rule

sul·try /ˈsʌltri/ *adj* **1** (of weather) hot, airless, and uncomfortable **2** (esp. of a woman or her appearance) causing or showing strong sexual attraction or desire: *a sultry look/smile* —**-triness** *n* [U]

sum¹ /sʌm/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] an amount (of money): *I had to spend a large sum/large sums of money to get it back.* | *The company was sold for an undisclosed sum.* | (*humor*) *It cost me* **the princely sum of** *£2.* (=It only cost me £2.) —see also LUMP SUM **2** [C] *esp. BrE* a simple calculation, by adding, multiplying, dividing, etc.: *learning to do sums at school* **3** [*the*+S (**of**)] the total produced when numbers, amounts, etc., are added together: *The sum of 6 and 4 is 10.* **4** [*the*+S (**of**)] SUM TOTAL **5 do one's sums** to calculate whether one has enough money for something: *Well, I've done my sums, and I think I can manage a holiday this year.* **6 in sum** *fml* in simple words; in a short phrase: *It was, in sum, a complete failure.*

sum² *v*

sum up *phr v* **-mm-** **1** [I;T (=**sum** sthg.↔**up**)] to give a statement of the main points of (a report, a speech, a trial, etc.); SUMMARIZE: *The last section sums up all the arguments on either side.* | *So,* **to sum up** (=this is a statement of the main points), *we've got to pay more attention to profitability and cost control.* | *At the end of the trial, the judge summed up.* —see also SUMMING-UP **2** [T] (**sum** sbdy./sthg.↔**up**) to consider and form a judgment of: *She summed up the situation at a glance.*

Su·ma·tra /sʊˈmɑːtrə/ the second largest island of Indonesia, formerly a Dutch COLONY —**Sumatran** *adj,n*

Su·mer /ˈsuːməʳ/ the southern part of ancient Mesopotamia, where one of the world's oldest civilizations lived. The people are believed to have invented CUNEIFORM writing and vehicles with wheels.

Su·me·ri·an /sʊˈmɪəriən‖-ˈmeər-/ *adj* of the people, language, art, etc. of Sumer —**Sumerian** *n*

sum·ma cum lau·de /ˌsʌmə kʌm ˈlɔːdi, -ˈlaʊdeɪ‖ˌsʊmə kʊm ˈlaʊdi/ *adj, adv AmE* the highest HONOURS (2) given to American university or college students when they finish their studies —see also DEGREE (CULTURAL NOTE) compare CUM LAUDE

sum·mar·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈsʌməraɪz/ *v* [I;T] to make a short general statement of the main points of (something longer or more detailed): *She summarized the aims of the new party in a couple of sentences.*

sum·ma·ry¹ /ˈsʌməri/ *n* [(**of**)] a short account giving the main points: *Write me a one-page summary of this report.* | *a news summary*

summary² *adj fml* done at once without attention to formal rules or details, or, in the case of punishments, without considering forgiveness: *summary justice* —**-rily** /ˈsʌmərɨli‖sʌˈme-/ *adv* : *He was summarily dismissed.*

sum·mat /ˈsʌmət/ *pron BrE dial* something: *Summat's up.* (=something is wrong; there is a problem)

sum·ma·tion /səˈmeɪʃən/ *n fml* **1** a summary; SUMMING-UP **2** a total

sum·mer¹ /ˈsʌməʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] the season between spring and autumn; the part of the year when the sun is hottest and the days are longest: *I go on holiday in summer/in* **high summer.** (=the warmest time) | *a hot summer* | *last*

summer | the summer of 1940 | summer dresses **2** [C *usu. pl.*] *old use or lit* a year of one's age: *He looked younger than his 70 summers.* —see also INDIAN SUMMER

summer² *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *rare* to spend the summer

Summer, Don·na /ˈdɒnə‖ˈdɑː-/ (1948–) an American popular music singer

Summer Bank Hol·i·day /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ [*the*] (in England and Wales) a bank holiday on a Monday at the end of August

summer camp /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [C;U] (in the US) a place where children can stay for a short time in tents or huts during the summer holidays and learn outdoor skills such as swimming, boating, and how to make a fire

summer hol·i·days /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [P] a holiday taken during the summer. British people usu. take their main holiday in the summer, esp. in August, and many people go away for one or two weeks, often to a place by the sea, either in Britain or abroad.

sum·mer·house /ˈsʌməhaʊs‖-ər-/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ a small building in a garden, with seats in the shade

summer of dis·con·tent /ˌ·· · ˌ··ˈ·/ [*the*] the summer of 1989 when there were a lot of STRIKES² (1) in Britain at the same time —see also WINTER OF DISCONTENT

summer pud·ding /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [C,U] a TRADITIONAL British sweet dish made from pieces of bread and summer fruits such as berries, which are left to mix together in a bowl before serving, and then turned out in the shape of the bowl

summer school /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [C;U] a course of lessons, talks, etc., arranged in addition to the year's work in a university, college, or school after the start of the summer holiday

summer sol·stice /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the day, usu. around June 22nd, when the sun is above the TROPIC OF CANCER and as far to the North as possible, so that places in the N HEMISPHERE, like Britain, have the longest day of the year and places in the S hemisphere have the shortest day of the year. The summer solstice is not usu. celebrated in Britain or the US, but in Britain a few people, esp. Druids, do celebrate it by watching the sun rise on that day at Stonehenge. —compare EQUINOX, WINTER SOLSTICE

sum·mer·time /ˈsʌmətaɪm‖-ər-/ *n* [(*the*) U] the season of summer; the time of hot weather

sum·mer·y /ˈsʌməri/ *adj* of, like, or suitable for summer: *girls in light summery dresses*

summing-up /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **summings-up** a SUMMARY, esp. one given by the judge at the end of a trial —see also SUM **up**

sum·mit /ˈsʌmɨt/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] the top of a mountain: *The climbers reached the summit of Mount Everest yesterday morning.* —compare PEAK¹ (1) and see picture at MOUNTAIN **2** [*the*+S (**of**)] *fml* the highest point, degree, etc.: *the summit of scientific achievement* **3** [C] a meeting between heads of government: *the recent Geneva summit | a summit meeting*

sum·mon /ˈsʌmən/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to order officially to come: *He was summoned to the palace|summoned into the presence of the Queen.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *He was summoned to appear before the revolutionary court.* **2** to tell or request people to come to; CONVENE: *to summon a meeting*

summon sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to bring (a quality) out of oneself, esp. with an effort: *She had to summon up all her strength to lift the rock.*

sum·mons¹ /ˈsʌmənz/ *n* **-monses** an order to appear in a court of law: *They* **served a summons on** *him.* (=ordered him to appear in court)

summons² *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to give a summons to; order to appear in court: *The witness was summonsed.*

su·mo /ˈsuːməʊ/ also **sumo wrest·ling** /ˌ·· ˈ··/— *n* [U] a Japanese form of wrestling (WRESTLE), involving special ceremonies as well as entertainment, in which two men try to force each other to the ground or out of a ring marked on the floor. The men (**sumo wrestlers**) are known for their great size and strength, and the sport is taken very seriously in Japan.

sump /sʌmp/ *n* **1** *BrE*,‖ **oil pan** *AmE*— a part of an engine that holds the supply of oil **2** the lowest point of a DRAINAGE system where liquids or wastes collect

sump·tu·ous /ˈsʌmptʃuəs/ *adj* expensive and grand: *sumptuous furnishings* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sum to·tal /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*+S (**of**)] the whole, esp. when less than expected or needed: *The sum total of her experience is one year working abroad.*

sun¹ /sʌn/ *n* **1** [*the*] the burning star in the sky around which the Earth moves and from which it receives light and heat —see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM **2** [(*the*)+S;U] light and heat from the sun: *She was sitting in the sun reading a book | a watery sun | I've had too much sun; I don't feel very well.* **3** [C] any star round which PLANETS may turn **4 under the sun** (used for giving force to an expression) at all: *She was the last person under the sun I expected to see there.* —see also **place in the sun** (PLACE¹ (18))

sun² *v* **-nn-** [T] to cause (oneself) to sit or lie in sunlight: *She was sunning herself in the garden.*

Sun [*the*] a British TABLOID daily newspaper. It generally supports the ideas of the Conservative party and is considered to be very RIGHT-WING. It is also known for often having a picture of a woman with bare breasts on page three of the newspaper. —see also PAGE THREE GIRL, SUN READER, TABLOID and see also extra information on page 896

Sun. *written abbrev. for:* Sunday

sun·baked /ˈsʌnbeɪkt/ *adj* (usu. of a place) hardened by or having a lot of hot sunshine: *the sunbaked earth | the sunbaked shores of the Caribbean*

sun·bathe /ˈsʌnbeɪð/ *v* [I] to sit or lie in strong sunlight, esp. with very few clothes on, in order to make the body brown: *We've been sunbathing on the beach.* —**-bather** *n*

►CULTURAL NOTE Sunbathing is very popular in Britain and the US, as it is fashionable to have a SUNTAN (= browning of the skin caused by the sun). Many people now think that too much sunbathing is dangerous, as it can cause skin CANCER.◄

sun·beam /ˈsʌnbiːm/ *n* a small quantity or beam of sunlight (esp. as seen indoors)

sun·bed /ˈsʌnbed/ *n* a bedlike frame on which one lies in the sun, or when using a SUNLAMP

Sun·belt /ˈsʌnbelt/ [*the*] the southern and esp. southwestern parts of the US, from Virginia to S California

sun·bon·net /ˈsʌnbɒnɨt‖-bɑː-/ *n* an old-fashioned woman's hat used as protection from the sun's heat

sun·burn /ˈsʌnbɜːn‖-bɜːrn/ *n* [U] (the condition of having) sore skin caused by spending too much time in strong sunlight —compare SUNTAN —**-burnt, -burned** *adj*

sun·dae /ˈsʌndeɪ‖-di/ *n* a dish made from ice cream with fruit, sweet-tasting juice, nuts, etc.: *a strawberry|chocolate sundae*

Sun·day /ˈsʌndi/ (*written abbrev.* **Sun.**) *n* [C;U] the last day of the week, between Saturday and Monday: *He'll arrive on Sunday.* | (*BrE infml & AmE*) *He'll arrive Sunday.* | *It happened on Sunday morning.* | *She left last Sunday.* | *My birthday is on a Sunday this year.* | *Christians go to church on Sundays.* —see also **in a month of Sundays** (MONTH) and DAY (CULTURAL NOTE)

Sunday best /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *old-fash* one's best clothes, which are only worn on special occasions, for example to church on Sundays: *She came in her Sunday best, but found everyone else in jeans and T-shirts.*

Sunday driv·er /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n derog* a person who does not drive very often, typically an old person who takes their car out on Sundays and drives very slowly and carefully, annoying other drivers

Sunday Ex·press /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] a British newspaper which is printed and sold every Sunday —see also extra information on page 896

Sunday joint /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Sunday roast**— *n BrE* a large piece of cooked meat, eaten as part of a TRADITIONAL Sunday lunch

Sunday lunch /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Sunday din·ner** /ˌ·· ˈ··/— *n* [U] a meal usu. eaten at about one o'clock on Sundays, with the whole family together

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, Sunday lunch is an important meal for many families, as it may be the only meal eaten by the whole family together. The TRADITIONAL Sunday lunch consists of roast beef served with YORKSHIRE PUDDING, GRAVY, roast potatoes, and other vegetables, followed by a sweet dish.◄

Sunday Mir·ror /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a British newspaper which is

printed and sold every Sunday —see also extra information on page 896

Sunday pa·per /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* any of the newspapers which are printed and sold on Sundays. They usually have more pages than daily newspapers and may be divided into different parts or SUPPLEMENTS on subjects such as sport, holidays, business, jobs, etc.: *It takes me all day to read the Sunday papers | We never get a Sunday paper.* —see also extra information on page 896

Sunday Post /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Post**— [*the*] a Scottish Sunday newspaper which supports TRADITIONAL values and has many stories about ordinary people. It is very popular in Scotland and is also read by Scottish people in many other parts of the world.

Sunday roast /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a SUNDAY JOINT

Sunday school /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [C;U] (a place where Christian children receive) religious teaching on a Sunday

Sunday Sport /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a British TABLOID newspaper which is printed and sold every Sunday —see also extra information on page 896

Sunday Tel·e·graph /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*] a serious British newspaper which is printed and sold every Sunday. It is known for its generally RIGHT-WING political opinions. —see also DAILY TELEGRAPH —see also extra information on page 896

Sunday Times /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a serious British newspaper which is printed and sold every Sunday —see also extra information on page 896

Sunday trad·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **Sunday o·pen·ing** /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *AmE*— *n* [U] the opening of shops for business on Sundays

►CULTURAL NOTE There are laws in England which allow only certain kinds of shops to open on a Sunday. Some British people would like all shops to open on Sundays, but others think that Sunday should be kept as a special day for going to church and spending time with one's family.◄

sun·deck /ˈsʌndek/ *n* a part of a ship where people sit in the sun

sun·der /ˈsʌndəʳ/ *v* [T] *lit* to break into parts, esp. violently —see also ASUNDER

Sun·der·land /ˈsʌndələnd‖-dər-/ a port and industrial town in NE England, on the river Wear

sun·dial /ˈsʌndaɪəl/ *n* an apparatus, used esp. in former times, which shows the time according to where the shadow of a pointer falls

sun·down /ˈsʌndaʊn/ *n* [U] sunset

sun·down·er /ˈsʌnˌdaʊnəʳ/ *n infml, esp. BrE* an alcoholic drink taken in the evening

sun·drenched /ˈsʌndrentʃt/ *adj* (of a place) having a lot of hot sunshine: *a sundrenched tropical island*

sun·dries /ˈsʌndriz/ *n* [P] small articles of various types, not important enough to be named separately: *Items such as envelopes, paper, and stamps were lumped together in the bill as sundries.*

sun·dry /ˈsʌndri/ *adj* [A] *fml* various: *books, pens, and sundry other articles* —see also **all and sundry** (ALL[3])

sun·flow·er /ˈsʌnˌflaʊəʳ/ *n* a garden plant which grows very tall, with a large yellow flower and seeds which can be eaten or used for making cooking oil

sung /sʌŋ/ *past participle of* SING

sun·glass·es /ˈsʌnˌglɑːsɨz‖-ˌglæ-/ also **dark glasses**— *n* [P] dark glasses used esp. to protect the eyes from bright sunlight

sun god /ˈ· ·/ *n* a god in some ancient religions who was considered to represent and/or have power over the sun

sun·hat /ˈsʌnhæt/ *n* a hat with a wide surround to protect the face, head, and neck from the sun

sunk /sʌŋk/ *past tense & participle of* SINK

sunk·en /ˈsʌŋkən/ *adj* **1** [A] which has (been) sunk: *a sunken ship | sunken treasure* **2** (of a part of the body) having fallen inwards, esp. because of tiredness, old age, or illness; hollow: *sunken eyes|cheeks* **3** [A] built below the surrounding level: *a sunken garden|sunken bath*

sun·lamp /ˈsʌnlæmp/ also **sunray lamp** /ˈ·· ·/— *n* a lamp which gives out ULTRAVIOLET light and is used esp. for making the skin brown because this is considered attractive

sun·less /ˈsʌnləs/ *adj lit* lacking natural light: *in the sunless depths of the forest*

sun·light /ˈsʌnlaɪt/ *n* [U] natural light from the sun: *bright|pale sunlight | a patch of sunlight | Our garden gets a lot of sunlight.*

sun·lit /ˈsʌnlɪt/ *adj* brightly lit by the sun

sun lounge /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **sun porch, sun par·lor** /ˈ· ˌ··/ *AmE*— *n* a room with large windows which let in a lot of bright sunlight

Sun·na, Sunnah /ˈsʊnə, ˈsʌ-/ [*the*] the body of ancient Muslim law based on the words and acts of Muhammed

Sun·ni /ˈsʊni/ *adj, n* **-nis** (of or being) a Muslim who follows the branch of the Muslim religion based only on the teachings and acts of Muhammed —compare SHIITE

sun·ny /ˈsʌni/ *adj* **1** having bright sunlight: *a sunny room|day* **2** cheerful: *a sunny smile* —**-niness** *n* [U]

sunny-side up /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *adj* [F] *AmE* (of an egg) cooked in hot fat on one side only, not turned over in the pan

sun·ray /ˈsʌnreɪ/ *adj* [A] using ULTRAVIOLET light: *sunray treatment* —see also SUNLAMP

Sun read·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n BrE derog* a person who has RIGHT-WING political opinions and is not very well educated, thought to be the sort of person who reads the Sun newspaper

sun·rise /ˈsʌnraɪz/ also **sun-up** *infml*— *n* [C;U] the time when the sun appears in the morning: *We got up at sunrise. | watching the sunrise | a beautiful sunrise*

sunrise in·dus·try /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* an industry, such as ELECTRONICS or the making of computers, that uses modern processes and is taking the place of older industries that use heavy machinery

sun·roof /ˈsʌnruːf/ *n* **1** a flat roof of a building where one can enjoy the sun **2** a car roof with a part which can be moved back to let in air and light —see picture at CAR

sun screen /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [U] an oil or liquid that is rubbed into the skin to protect it from the sun's harmful RAYS

sun·set /ˈsʌnset/ *n* [C;U] **1** the time when the sun disappears as night begins: *They stopped work at sunset. | He sat watching the sunset. | You get beautiful sunsets in the tropics.* **2 drive/ride/sail off into the sunset** *humor* to drive, ride, or sail away in a way that suggests a happy ending of an old Hollywood ROMANTIC film

Sunset Boule·vard /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Sunset Strip** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— a famous street that runs through Hollywood, California. It is connected with the film industry and rich film stars, mostly because of a well-known film named after the street.

sunset law /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a law in most US states which says that some state programmes must be examined regularly to see if they are still useful

sun·shade /ˈsʌnʃeɪd/ also **parasol**— *n* a light folding circular frame, similar to an UMBRELLA but usu. covered with colourful material and held over the head for protection from the sun

sun·shine /ˈsʌnʃaɪn/ *n* [(*the*) U] strong sunlight: *I was sitting in the garden enjoying the sunshine. | She has brought some sunshine into my life.* (=made me happy)

sunshine law /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a type of law in the US which says that many government organizations (city, state, and national) must allow the public to attend their meetings

sun·spot /ˈsʌnspɒt‖-spɑːt/ *n* a small dark cooler area on the sun's surface, as seen through a TELESCOPE

sun·stroke /ˈsʌnstrəʊk/ *n* [U] fever, weakness, headache, etc., caused by too much strong sunlight, esp. on the head —compare HEATSTROKE

sun·tan /ˈsʌntæn/ also **tan**— *n* the browning of the skin caused by being in strong sunlight —compare SUNBURN; see also SUNBATHE (CULTURAL NOTE) —**-tanned** *adj*

suntan cream /ˈ·· ˌ·/ also **suntan oil**— *n* [U] a cream or oil that is rubbed into the skin to prevent the skin from burning in hot sun, and to encourage it to turn brown

sun·trap /ˈsʌntræp/ *n* a sheltered place that gets a lot of sunshine: *The back garden is a real suntrap.*

sun-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *infml* SUNRISE

sun vi·sor /ˈ· ˌ·· / *n* a movable flat piece fitted to the top of a car window to protect the driver's eyes from bright sunshine

Sun Yat-sen /ˌsʊn ˌjæt ˈsen/ (1867–1925) a Chinese nationalist politician whose real name was **Sun Zhong-shan,**

who became president of China in 1912 after helping to remove the ruling EMPEROR

sup[1] /sʌp/ *v* **-pp-** [I (UP);T] *ScotE & N EngE* to drink (esp. beer) in small mouthfuls —**sup** *n*

sup[2] *v* **-pp-** [I (**on, off**)] *old use* to eat (as) supper: *They supped on bread and cheese.*

su·per[1] /ˈsuːpəʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuː-/ *adj infml, becoming old-fash* wonderful; extremely good: *It's a super place for a holiday.* | *What a super idea!* | *That sounds super.*

super[2] *n BrE infml* **1** *BrE* a SUPERINTENDENT, esp. in the police **2** *AmE* SUPERINTENDENT (3)

super- see WORD FORMATION

su·per·a·bun·dant /ˌsuːpərəˈbʌndənt◂,ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *adj fml or pomp* more than enough —**-dance** *n* [S (**of**)] : *She has a superabundance of energy.*

su·per·an·nu·at·ed /ˌsuːpərˈænjueɪtɨd, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *adj fml or tech* **1** too old for work **2** old-fashioned; OBSOLETE: *superannuated ideas*

su·per·an·nu·a·tion /ˌsuːpərænjuˈeɪʃən, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* money paid as a PENSION, esp. from one's former place of work

superannuation scheme /ˌ····ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a kind of PENSION PLAN which is controlled by and contributed to by one's employer: *The company has an excellent superannuation scheme.*

su·perb /sjuːˈpɜːb, suː-‖suːˈpɜːrb/ *adj* excellent; of the highest quality: *The food was superb.* | *a superb performance* —~**ly** *adv*

Super Bowl /ˈ·· ·/ [*the*] the game played each year in late January on a Sunday (**Super Bowl Sunday**) that decides which team is the overall winner (CHAMPION) in American professional football. It was first played in 1967 and a ROMAN NUMERAL is used to show the number of each year's game: *Super Bowl XXVI* —see also FOOTBALL (2) and see extra information on page 501

su·per·charge /ˈsuːpətʃɑːdʒ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpərtʃɑːrdʒ/ *v* [T *often pass.*] **1** to increase the power of (an engine) with a supercharger **2** to fill with (too much) power, strong feeling, etc.: *an atmosphere supercharged with emotion*

su·per·charg·er /ˈsuːpəˌtʃɑːdʒəʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpərˌtʃɑːr-/ *n* an apparatus for producing more power from an engine by forcing air into the place where FUEL, such as petrol, burns —see also TURBOCHARGER

su·per·cil·i·ous /ˌsuːpəˈsɪliəs◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *adj derog* (as if) thinking that others are of little importance; HAUGHTY: *a supercilious wave of the hand* | *a supercilious manner* —~**ly** *adv* : *He smiled superciliously when I described my modest collection.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

su·per·con·duc·tiv·i·ty /ˌsuːpəkɒndʌkˈtɪvɨti, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpərkɑːn-/ *n* [U] the ability of certain metals to allow electricity to pass freely (without RESISTANCE) when at the lowest temperatures possible

su·per·con·duc·tor /ˌsuːpəkənˈdʌktəʳ, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *n* a substance that possesses the quality of superconductivity

Su·per·drug /ˈsuːpədrʌg, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ (in Britain) one of a group of shops selling medical items and TOILETRIES, usu. at low prices

su·per·du·per /ˌsuːpəˈduːpəʳ, ˌsjuː-◂‖ˌsuːpər-/ *adj infml, becoming old-fash* wonderful; SUPER

su·per·e·go /ˌsuːpərˈiːgəʊ, -ˈegəʊ, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *n* **-gos** *tech* (in Freudian PSYCHOLOGY) the moral self or conscience; the one of the three parts of the mind that is partly conscious and that rewards and punishes us by our feelings of guilt or rightness, according to our respect for the rules of society —compare EGO (2), ID

su·per·fi·cial /ˌsuːpəˈfɪʃəl◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] on the surface; not deep: *a superficial wound* | *a superficial resemblance between two people* **2** not thorough or complete: *She has a superficial knowledge of the language.* | *a superficial inspection* **3** *derog* showing a lack of deep feelings or serious thinking; SHALLOW[1] (2): *He's so superficial.* | *a very superficial analysis of the situation* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ity** /ˌsuːpəfɪʃiˈælɨti, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *n* [U]

su·per·flu·i·ty /ˌsuːpəˈfluːɨti, ˈsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *n* [S (**of**)] *fml or pomp* a larger amount than is needed

su·per·flu·ous /suːˈpɜːfluəs, sjuː-‖suːˈpɜːr-/ *adj fml* more than is necessary; not needed or wanted: *He had already been told, so our comments were superfluous.* | *superfluous energy* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Su·per·glue /ˈsuːpəgluː, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a very strong kind of glue which sticks very quickly and is difficult to remove **superglue** *v* [T]

su·per·grass /ˈsuːpəgrɑːs, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpərgræs/ *n BrE* a person, esp. a criminal, who supplies the police with a lot of information about the activities of other criminals in order to reduce his/her own punishment

su·per·gun /ˈsuːpəgʌn, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* a very large gun, esp. the one that Iraq was trying to build in 1990, made up of steel tubes sent secretly into the country: *There have been more questions in the British parliament about the Iraqi supergun affair.*

su·per·he·ro /ˈsuːpəˌhɪərəʊ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* a character in stories who has special qualities such as great strength, the ability to fly, and special senses, and uses these to help people and to save the world from evil —see also SUPERMAN

su·per·high·way /ˈsuːpəˌhaɪweɪ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n AmE* a very large MOTORWAY —see EXPRESSWAY (USAGE)

su·per·hu·man /ˌsuːpəˈhjuːmən◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpərˈhjuː-, -ˈjuː-/ *adj* seeming beyond human powers: *It will require a superhuman effort to get the job finished on time.*

su·per·im·pose /ˌsuːpərɪmˈpəʊz, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *v* [T (**on**)] to put (something) over something else, esp. so that both can be (partly) seen: *Using two projectors, we can superimpose one film image on the other.*

su·per·in·tend /ˌsuːpərɪnˈtend, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *v* [T] to be in charge of and direct (official work)

su·per·in·tend·ent /ˌsuːpərɪnˈtendənt, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *n* **1** a person who is officially in charge of an activity, a place, etc.: *superintendent of schools* **2** a British police officer of middle rank **3** *AmE* also **super** a person who manages an APARTMENT BUILDING

su·pe·ri·or[1] /suːˈpɪəriəʳ, sjuː-‖sʊ-/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] of higher rank or class: *I'll report you to your superior officer!* **2** [(**to**)] better in quality or value: *Of the two books, I think this one is superior (to that).* **3** of high quality: *This is a very superior make of car, sir.* | *superior craftsmanship* **4** *derog* (as if) thinking oneself better than others: *He smiled a superior smile as he drove past in his expensive new car.* **5** [A] *tech* higher in position; upper: *the superior limbs* (=the arms) **6** [after *n*] (*usu. cap.*) (a title for) the head of a religious group: *Mother/Father Superior* —compare INFERIOR[1]; see MAJOR (USAGE) —~**ity** /suːˌpɪəriˈɒrɨti, sjuː-‖sʊˌpɪəriˈɔː-, -ˈɑː-/ *n* [U (**over**)] : *their obvious superiority over the other team*

superior[2] *n* [*often pl.*] a person of higher rank, esp. in a job: *He always does what his superiors tell him.* —compare INFERIOR[1]

Superior, Lake the largest of the Great Lakes on the border between Canada and the US; the largest freshwater lake in the world —see colour map on pages 1374–5

superior court /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a STATE COURT which hears many different types of cases, esp. serious cases

superiority com·plex /·ˌ··ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n infml* a condition of the mind in which someone believes that they are much better, more important, clever, etc., than other people —compare INFERIORITY COMPLEX

su·per·la·tive[1] /suːˈpɜːlətɪv, sjuː-‖sʊˈpɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] (in grammar) of the form of an adjective or adverb expressing the highest degree of comparison: *"Biggest" is the superlative form of "big".* | *"Worst" is the superlative form of "bad".* —compare COMPARATIVE[1] (1), POSITIVE[1] (5) **2** best; of the highest quality: *of superlative quality* | *a superlative performance*

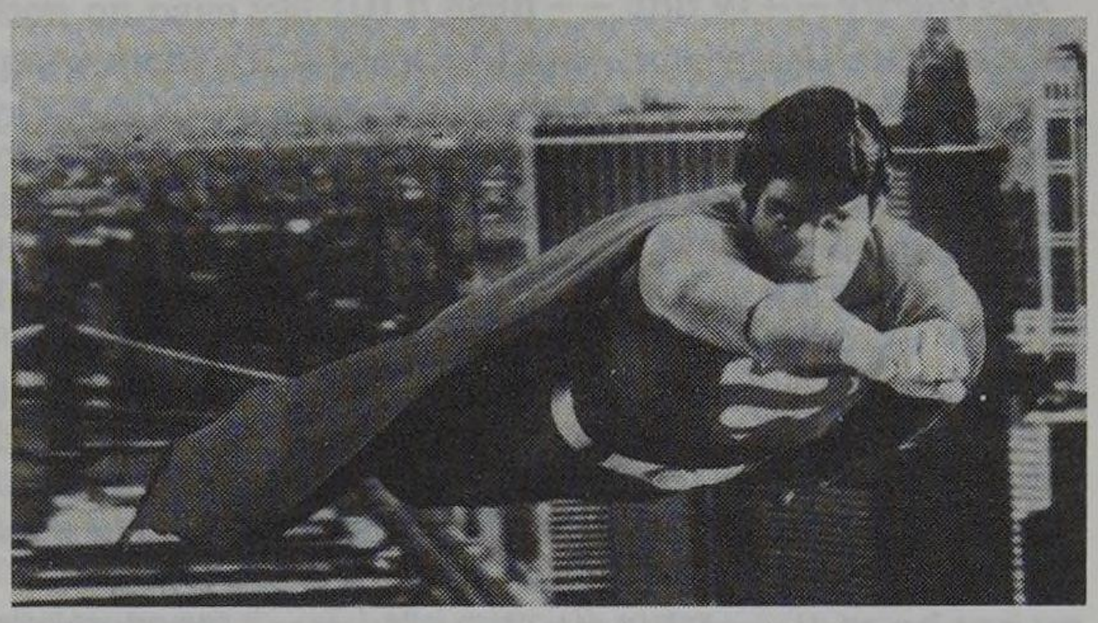
superlative[2] *n* **1** [*the*+S] the superlative form of an adjective or adverb: *"Biggest" is the superlative of "big".* **2** [C] a word in this form, esp. when expressing great praise or admiration: *She described the place with a string of superlatives.* (=several superlative adjectives)

su·per·la·tive·ly /suːˈpɜːlətɪvli, sjuː-‖sʊˈpɜːr-/ *adv* (esp. of something good) very; to a very high degree: *superlatively happy*

Super League /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a football LEAGUE[1] formed from the best football teams in Britain

su·per·man /ˈsuːpəmæn, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ **superwoman** *fem.*— *n* **-men** /men/ a person of very great or SUPERHUMAN ability or strength

Superman



Superman an American HERO of COMIC STRIPS and films who fights for truth and justice, using his special powers, such as being able to fly and having great strength. Most of the time he leads the life of an ordinary man, Clark Kent, but whenever he is needed he quickly changes into a special COSTUME, and becomes Superman. —compare BATMAN, SPIDERMAN; see also Clark KENT, KRYPTON

su·per·mar·ket /ˈsuːpəˌmɑːkɨt, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpərˌmɑːr-/ ‖ also **grocery store** *AmE*— *n* a large shop where customers serve themselves with food and other goods needed in the home. The customers use large TROLLEYS and often buy enough food to last for a week or even a month. Goods usu. cost less in supermarkets than they do in smaller shops: *Small corner shops simply cannot compete with the supermarkets on prices.*

su·per·nat·u·ral[1] /ˌsuːpəˈnætʃərəl◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *adj* impossible to explain by natural laws; of or caused by the powers of spirits, gods, and magic: *supernatural forces* —~**ly** *adv*

supernatural[2] *n* [*the*+S] matters and experiences connected with unknown forces and spirits: *belief in the supernatural*

su·per·no·va /ˌsuːpəˈnəʊvə, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *n* a very large exploding star seen in the sky as a bright mass —compare NOVA

su·per·nu·me·ra·ry /ˌsuːpəˈnjuːmərəri, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpərˈnuːməreri/ *n, adj fml* (a person or thing) additional to the usual or necessary number

su·per·pow·er /ˈsuːpəˌpaʊəʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* a nation that has very great military and political power: *Britain is no longer a superpower.*

su·per·sede /ˌsuːpəˈsiːd, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to take the place of (usu. something older), esp. as an improvement: *The cinema has been superseded by television as the most popular form of entertainment.*

su·per·son·ic /ˌsuːpəˈsɒnɪk◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpərˈsɑː-/ *adj* (flying) faster than the speed of sound: *a supersonic aircraft | supersonic flight* —compare SUBSONIC

su·per·star /ˈsuːpəstɑːʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* an extremely famous performer, esp. a popular musician or film actor

su·per·sti·tion /ˌsuːpəˈstɪʃən, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *n* [C;U] (a) belief which is not based on reason or fact but on old ideas about luck, magic, etc.

►CULTURAL NOTE Some common superstitions are mentioned below. It is thought to be unlucky to walk under ladders, or to break a mirror. If someone spills salt they should pick a little up and throw it over their left shoulder into the face of the devil. A black cat crossing one's path is thought by some to be lucky. In the theatre, rather than saying "Good Luck" one should say "Break a leg". Also in the theatre, Shakespeare's play *Macbeth* should be spoken of as "the Scottish Play" and not by name. —see also LUCKY, UNLUCKY◄

su·per·sti·tious /ˌsuːpəˈstɪʃəs◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *adj* strongly influenced by superstition —~**ly** *adv*

su·per·store /ˈsuːpəstɔːʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n BrE* a very large shop, often on the edge of a town, with its own car park, selling food, clothing, electrical goods, or furniture, usually fairly cheaply and with a good choice —compare DISCOUNT STORE

su·per·struc·ture /ˈsuːpəˌstrʌktʃəʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* **1** a structure that is built up on top of a base, such as the upper parts of a ship or the part of a building above the ground **2** an arrangement, system, etc., which has grown from a simpler base: *a superstructure of religion based on nature worship*

su·per·tank·er /ˈsuːpəˌtæŋkəʳ, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* an extremely large ship (TANKER) which can carry large quantities of gas or liquid, esp. oil

su·per·tax /ˈsuːpətæks, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* [U] (formerly in Britain), additional income tax paid only by people with very high incomes

Super Tues·day /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *AmE* the second Tuesday in March of a presidential election year, on which many states, esp. in the South, hold a PRIMARY election (an election which helps decide who will run for president from each political party)

su·per·vene /ˌsuːpəˈviːn, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *v* [I] *fml* to happen unexpectedly, esp. in a way that stops or interrupts an event or situation

su·per·vise /ˈsuːpəvaɪz, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *v* [I;T] to keep watch over (a job or activity, or the people doing it) as the person in charge —**visor** *n* —**visory** *adj* : *She works there in a supervisory capacity.*

su·per·vi·sion /ˌsuːpəˈvɪʒən, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuːpər-/ *n* [U] the act or fact of supervising: *The work was done under my supervision.* (=I supervised it)

su·per·wom·an /ˈsuːpəwʊmən, ˈsjuː-‖ˈsuːpər-/ *n* **-women** /ˌwɪmɨn/ (*sometimes cap.*) **1** a female SUPERMAN **2** a woman who has a CAREER at the same time as running a home and bringing up children, and makes it seem easy

su·pine /ˈsuːpaɪn, ˈsjuː-‖suːˈpaɪn/ *adj fml* **1** lying on one's back, looking upwards —compare PRONE (2) **2** inactive and ineffective, and perhaps too ready to allow others to take control: *a supine acceptance of their decision* —~**ly** *adv*

sup·per /ˈsʌpəʳ/ *n* [C;U] a meal taken in the evening: *What time do you have supper? | It happened at/during supper. | We had fish for supper. | It's supper time!* —see DINNER (USAGE)

sup·plant /səˈplɑːnt‖səˈplænt/ *v* [T] to take the place of (sometimes unfairly or improperly): *She's been supplanted in her aunt's affections by her brother.* (=her aunt now likes him more) | *a new system to supplant outdated working methods*

sup·ple /ˈsʌpəl/ *adj* bending or moving easily and gracefully, esp. in the joints of the body: *She exercises every day to keep herself supple.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sup·ple·ment[1] /ˈsʌplɨmənt/ *n* **1** an additional amount that makes something complete or supplies something else that is needed: *a dietary supplement* **2** an additional part at the end of a book or as a separate part of a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *Do you read the Sunday colour supplements?* —see also extra information on page 896

sup·ple·ment[2] /ˈsʌplɨment/ *v* [T (**by, with**)] to add to; provide a supplement to: *She supplements her regular income by doing a bit of teaching in the evenings.*

sup·ple·men·ta·ry /ˌsʌplɨˈmentəri◂/ *adj* [(**to**)] **1** additional: *There is a supplementary water supply in case the main supply fails.* **2** *tech* (of angles or an angle) making up 180° together, or with the other angle: *An angle of 120° is supplementary to an angle of 60°; they are* **supplementary angles.** —compare COMPLEMENTARY (2)

supplementary ben·e·fit /ˌ···· ˈ···/ *n* [U] (formerly in Britain) money given by the state to those (e.g. old or unemployed people) whose income does not reach a level officially regarded as being enough to live on, now called INCOME SUPPORT —compare WELFARE (3)

sup·pli·ant /ˈsʌpliənt/ *n, adj fml or lit* (a person) begging, praying, or requesting

sup·pli·cant /ˈsʌplɪkənt/ *n fml or lit* a person begging for something, esp. from someone in power or from God

sup·pli·cate /ˈsʌplɨkeɪt/ *v* [I;T] *fml or lit* to beg (God or someone in a position of power), esp. for help —**cation** /ˌsʌplɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

sup·pli·er /səˈplaɪəʳ/ also **suppliers** *pl.*— *n* a firm that supplies something, esp. goods: *If the typewriters are faulty, return them to the suppliers. | a leading supplier of aircraft parts*

sup·plies /səˈplaɪz/ *n* [P] food or other necessary materials for daily life, esp. for a group of people over a period of time: *The army was trapped in the pass for several days, and began to run short of supplies. | I need to get*

some school supplies. (=paper, pens, pencils, etc.)

sup·ply[1] /səˈplaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** [(**to**)] to provide (something that is needed): *The factory supplied a uniform to each of its workers.* **2** [(**with**)] to provide things to (a person) for use: *The firm that used to supply us has gone out of business.* | *An informer supplied the police with the names of those involved in the crime.* | *The new recruits were supplied with uniforms.* | *Our allies kept us supplied with weapons.* **3** *fml* to satisfy (a need): *The new bridge supplies a long-felt need.*

supply[2] *n* **1** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] an amount for use: *Bring a large supply of food with you.* —see also SUPPLIES, SUPPLY AND DEMAND **2** [U (**of**)] (a system for) the supplying of something needed: *The supply of electricity|The electricity supply has been threatened by recent strikes.* **3 in short supply** difficult to obtain because of shortage; SCARCE: *Potatoes are in short supply because of the bad harvest.* —see also MONEY SUPPLY

supply[3] *adj* [A] used for bringing or storing supplies: *a supply train* | *a supply dump*

supply and de·mand /ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] the balance between the amount of goods for sale and the amount that people actually want to buy, esp. as this influences prices: *The reason they're so expensive is that they're very scarce and everyone wants them; it's all a matter of supply and demand.*

supply-side /·ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *tech* (of economic ideas and models) favouring the producers of goods, e.g. by low taxes, so that they will find it easy to increase supplies: *supply-side economics|arguments* —compare DEMAND-SIDE —**supply-sider** *n*

supply teach·er /·ˈ· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **substitute teacher** *AmE*— *n* a teacher who takes the place of regular teachers for short periods while they are away

sup·port[1] /səˈpɔːt‖-ɔːrt/ *v* [T] **1** to bear the weight of, esp. so as to keep in place or prevent from falling; hold up: *The middle part of the bridge is supported by two huge towers.* | *Do you think those shelves can support so many books?* | (fig.) *The Federal Reserve Bank intervened to support the falling dollar.* **2 a** to provide esp. money for (a person) to live on: *Her father supported her until she got married.* | *She needs a high income to support such a large family.* **b** to provide the necessities of life (for people or animals): *This dry land won't support many cattle.* **3** to pay the cost of (a habit, activity, etc.): *He must need a fortune to support his drinking habits|extravagant tastes.* **4** to approve of and encourage: *Do you support their demands for independence?* | *The proposal was supported by a large majority in the Senate.* **5** to be loyal to, esp. by attending matches or performances: *Which football team do you support?* **6** to (seem to) show the truth or correctness of; SUBSTANTIATE: *The results support my original theory.* | *fresh evidence to support her allegations* **7** *fml* (with *can|cannot*) to bear; ENDURE: *I cannot support this heat.* —see also INSUPPORTABLE

support[2] *n* **1** [U] the state of being supported so as not to fall: *The roof may need extra support.* **2** [C] something that bears the weight of something else: *the supports of a bridge* **3** [U] active approval aimed at helping the success of something: *The local people have given us a lot of support in our campaign.* | *This proposal has my full support.* | *They signed a petition* **in support of** *the workers' demands.* | *We'll soon* **drum up support** *for the proposal.* (=get many people's approval) **4** [U] sympathetic encouragement and help: *Your support has meant a lot to me during this difficult time.* **5** [U] money to live on: *The judge ordered him to be kept in custody as he had* **no (visible) means of support.** (=had no money or job) —see also CHILD SUPPORT **6** [C] an apparatus which is worn to hold in place a weak or displaced part of the body

sup·por·ta·ble /səˈpɔːtəbəl‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* [*usu. in negatives*] *fml* bearable —opposite **insupportable**

sup·port·er /səˈpɔːtəʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* a person who supports a particular activity or team, defends a particular principle, etc.: *I'm a strong supporter of women's rights.* | *Several of the English football supporters were arrested after the match.*

support group /·ˈ· ·/ *n* a group of people who meet to help each other with a particular problem, e.g. alcoholism

supporting part /·ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **supporting role**— *n* a small part in a play or film

supporting pro·gramme /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **opening number, opening show** *AmE*— *n* the film or films shown in addition to the main film in a performance, or the performers in a show who appear in addition to the main star

sup·por·tive /səˈpɔːtɪv‖-ɔːr-/ *adj apprec* giving (additional) encouragement, help, etc., esp. to someone who is in a difficult position: *Mary was so supportive when my husband died.*

sup·pose[1] /səˈpəʊz/ *v* [T *not usu. in progressive forms*] **1** [+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] to consider to be probable; ASSUME: *As she's not here, I suppose she must have gone home.* | *There's no reason to suppose that his new book will be any better than his last one.* | *"He must have missed the train, then." "Yes, I suppose so."* | *I don't suppose she'll agree.* | (in polite requests) *I don't suppose you could give me a lift to the station, could you?* **2** [+*obj*+*to-v*|*adj*;*usu. pass.*] *fml* to believe; have as an opinion: *He was generally supposed to have left the country.* | *She was commonly supposed (to be) extremely rich.* **3** *fml* to have as a condition; PRESUPPOSE: *The company's plan supposes a steady increase in orders.* **4 be supposed to: a** to have a duty or responsibility to do something: *Everyone is supposed to bring a bottle to the party.* | *You're not supposed to smoke in here.* (=you are not allowed to) **b** to be intended to: *This law is supposed to help the poor.* **c** to be generally considered to be; have the REPUTATION of being: *I haven't seen it myself, but it's supposed to be a very good film.*

suppose[2] also **sup·pos·ing** /səˈpəʊzɪŋ/— *conj* **1** what would/will happen if: *Suppose it rains, what shall we do?* | *It's a good idea, but suppose your mother were to find out?* **2** (used for making a suggestion): *Suppose we wait a while.*

sup·posed /səˈpəʊzd, səˈpəʊzɨd/ *adj* [A] *often derog* believed to be (so), though without much proof: *Her supposed wealth is in fact a very small sum.* | *supposed experts*

sup·pos·ed·ly /səˈpəʊzɨdli/ *adv* as is believed, perhaps wrongly; as it appears: *Supposedly, she's a rich woman.* | *this supposedly unbiased report*

sup·po·si·tion /ˌsʌpəˈzɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of supposing or guessing: *His version of the events is pure supposition.* (=is based only on guessing) **2** [S (+*that*)] an idea which is a result of this; a guess: *The police are acting on the supposition that she took the money.*

sup·pos·i·to·ry /səˈpɒzɨtəri‖səˈpɑːzɨtɔːri/ *n* a small piece of easily meltable medicine that can be placed inside a lower opening of the body (the RECTUM or the VAGINA) — compare PESSARY (1)

sup·press /səˈpres/ *v* [T] **1** to destroy or bring to an end by force: *Opposition to the government was quickly suppressed.* **2** to prevent from being shown: *She could hardly suppress a smile.* | *You shouldn't try to suppress your feelings of anger.* **3** to prevent from being printed or made public: *The government used their emergency powers to suppress the magazine|to suppress the truth about the accident.* —~**ion** /səˈpreʃən/ *n* [U (**of**)] : *The suppression of the revolt took a mere two days.*

sup·pres·sor /səˈpresəʳ/ *n* **1** a person or thing that suppresses **2** *BrE* a small apparatus which prevents an electrical machine from causing INTERFERENCE (=bad quality sound or a bad picture) on a television or radio

sup·pu·rate /ˈsʌpjʊreɪt/ *v* [I] (of a wound) to form or give out PUS (=infected matter) —**-ration** /ˌsʌpjʊˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U]

su·pra·na·tion·al /ˌsuːprəˈnæʃənəl◂, ˌsjuː-‖ˌsuː-/ *adj* concerning more than one country; going beyond national powers, interests, borders, etc.: *a supranational organization*

su·prem·a·cist /səˈpreməsɨst/ *n* a person who believes in the supremacy of the stated group: *a white supremacist* (=someone who believes in the supremacy of white people)

su·prem·a·cy /səˈpreməsi/ *n* [U] the state of being supreme: *Germany planned to challenge Britain's naval supremacy.* | *their unchallenged supremacy in the field of electronics*

su·preme /suːˈpriːm, sjuː-, sə-‖sʊ-, suː-/ *adj* **1** having the highest position, with regard to power, importance, or influence: *An American general was appointed* **Supreme Allied Commander** *in Europe.* **2** highest in degree: *supreme happiness|courage* | *It required* **a supreme effort of will** *to stop myself from laughing.* | *Soldiers who*

die for their country are said to have made **the supreme sacrifice.** –see also SUPREMELY

su·prême /suːˈpriːm, -ˈprem, sjʊ-‖sʊ-, suː-/ *adj* [F] *Fr* (of a food) served with a thick rich liquid made with cream and eggs: *chicken suprême*

Supreme Be·ing /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] *lit* God

Supreme Court /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] **1** the most important court of law in certain countries **2** a court in England and Wales consisting of the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the Crown Court **3** the highest court and final court of APPEAL in the US FEDERAL system and for some cases in the state courts: *The full US Senate will decide today whether to confirm Judge Thomas's appointment to the Supreme Court.* –see colour picture on page 751

►CULTURAL NOTE The US Supreme Court has nine judges, called **justices**, who are on the court for as long as they wish to serve. The president suggests suitable judges for the court when a position becomes open, and the Senate must approve of his choice. The Supreme Court decides which cases it wants to hear, and these cases often attract a lot of public attention. Cases which come before the Supreme Court often concern the US Constitution, such as the right to free speech. –see also extra information on page 742◄

Supreme Court Justice /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* any of the nine judges who serves on the US Supreme Court. They serve for life, after being appointed by the president and approved by Congress. One of them is called the **chief justice**.

su·preme·ly /suːˈpriːmli, sjuː-, sə-‖sʊ-, suː-/ *adv* as much as possible; extremely: *supremely happy|confident*

Su·premes /suːˈpriːmz, sjuː-, sə-‖sʊ-, suː-/, **The** a female American popular music group formed in 1959, which was one of the most successful MOTOWN groups in the 1960s. Diana Ross was a member of the group until 1969.

Supreme So·vi·et /ˌ· ˈ···/ [*the*] the highest lawmaking body of the Soviet Union

su·prem·o /suːˈpriːməʊ, sjuː-‖sʊ-, suː-/ *n* **-mos** *BrE infml* a ruler or director with unlimited powers: *England's soccer supremo*

Supt. *written abbrev. for:* SUPERINTENDENT

sur·charge[1] /ˈsɜːtʃɑːdʒ‖ˈsɜːrtʃɑːrdʒ/ *v* [T (**on**)] to make an additional charge to or for, after an original payment has been made: *He was surcharged on the parcel.*

surcharge[2] *n* an amount charged in addition to the usual amount or the amount already paid, e.g. for a letter with too few stamps on it: *We had to pay a* **fuel surcharge** *on our airline tickets because of the sudden increase in the cost of oil.* | *an import surcharge*

sur·coat /ˈsɜːkəʊt‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* an armless garment worn over armour in former times

surd /sɜːd‖sɜːrd/ *n tech* a quantity which cannot be shown in whole numbers: *The square root of two is a surd.*

sure[1] /ʃʊəʳ/ *adj* **1** [F] having no doubt; confident in one's knowledge of something: *I think so, but I'm not sure.* [+(*that*)] *I'm sure he'll come.* [+*wh-*] *I'm not sure whether to go.* | *I wasn't sure about|of the way, so I asked someone.* | *I* **feel sure** *I've met her before somewhere.* | *He's confident that they'll win, but I'm* **not so sure.** **2** [F+*to-v*] certain (to happen): *It's a really good film – you're sure to like it.* | *It's sure to rain.* **3** [F+**of**] certain (of having or gaining something): *I've never felt surer of success.* **4** certain to be true or exact: *One thing is sure; he can't have gone far.* | *Those black clouds are* **a sure sign** *(that) it's going to rain.* **5 be sure to** don't forget to: *Be sure to turn everything off before you go to bed.* **6 make sure of something|that: a** to find out if something is certainly true: *I think I locked the door, but I'll just go back and make sure (of it|that I did).* **b** to take action so that something will certainly happen: *Make sure (that) you get here before midnight.* | *They made sure of winning by scoring two goals in the last five minutes.* **7 sure of oneself** *sometimes derog* believing (too) strongly in one's own abilities, actions, etc.; very confident: *She's very sure of herself.* –see also SELF-ASSURED **8 to be sure, for sure** it must be accepted (that); ADMITTEDLY: *Some people may disagree, to be sure, but that doesn't mean I'm wrong.* – see also SURELY – **~ness** *n* [U]

▷USAGE **Sure** can be used in the same way as **certain** in sentences about events like this: *He's* **sure|certain** *to come tomorrow* | *I'm not* **sure|certain** *(whether) I'll be able to come.* But it cannot be used in sentences like this: *It is* **certain** (not **sure**) *that he'll come tomorrow.*◁

sure[2] *adv* **1** *infml, esp. AmE* certainly: *Sure I will.* | *"Are you all right?" "Sure."* | (*AmE*) *He sure is tall.* –see SURELY (USAGE) **2 for sure** *infml* certainly so: *She won't lend you any money, and that's for sure.* **3 sure enough** exactly as was expected: *They all said it would fall down and sure enough it did.* | *"Are you coming tomorrow?" "Sure enough!"*

sure·fire /ˈʃʊəfaɪəʳ‖ˈʃʊər-/ *adj* [A] *infml* certain to happen or succeed: *a surefire winner|cure*

sure·foot·ed /ˌʃʊəˈfʊt̬ɨd◂‖ˌʃʊər-/ *adj* **1** able to walk firmly without slipping or falling in difficult places **2** able to make exact judgments, even in a difficult situation – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

sure·ly /ˈʃʊəli‖ˈʃʊərli/ *adv* **1** I believe, hope, or expect: *Surely you remember him?* | *You know him, surely?* | *It should surely be possible for them to reach an agreement.* –see USAGE **2** in a sure way: *We made our way up the mountain* **slowly but surely.** (=safely) | *The violinist played the difficult passage skilfully and surely.* (=confidently) **3** *AmE old fash* yes: *"Would you hand me that book over there?" "Surely"*

▷USAGE **Surely** does not usually have the same meaning as **certainly.** Compare *He* **surely** *doesn't expect me to pay him immediately.* (=I hope he doesn't expect this and I don't think he ought to) and *He* **certainly** *doesn't expect me to pay him immediately.* (=I know he doesn't expect the money now.) But, especially in American English, **surely** (often shortened to **sure**) can be used, like **certainly** and **of course** in answer to requests, to show willingness to help: *"Can I borrow this book?" "Yes,* **certainly|of course|surely|sure.**" –see also CERTAINLY (USAGE), COURSE (USAGE)◁

sure thing /ˌ· ˈ·/ *interj infml, esp. AmE* (used for expressing agreement with a statement or request): *"Buy a paper on the way home, will you." "Sure thing!"*

sur·e·ty /ˈʃʊərɨ̤ti/ *n* [C;U] **1** a person who takes responsibility for the behaviour of another, esp. to be responsible if the other person fails to pay a debt, appear in court, etc.: *Are you willing to* **stand surety** *for your brother?* **2** money given to make sure that a person will appear in court –see also BAIL[1] (1)

surf[1] /sɜːf‖sɜːrf/ *n* [U] the FOAM (=white air-filled water) formed by waves on the sea when they come in towards rocks, a shore, etc.

surf[2] *v* [I] to ride as a sport over waves coming in towards the shore, on a SURFBOARD. This sport is connected with California or Australia, and the Beach Boys, who recorded popular songs about surfing. It is considered a GLAMOROUS or fashionable activity because it suggests a sunny CLIMATE and the lifestyle that goes with it: *If the waves are big enough, we'll* **go surfing.** –see also WINDSURFING – **~er** *n*

sur·face[1] /ˈsɜːfɨ̤s‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C] the outer part of an object, esp. when considered with regard to its roughness or smoothness: *the surface of the moon* | *the smooth surface of a polished table* | *How is the coal brought to the surface?* | *a flat working surface* | *He had to drive slowly over the uneven surface of the road.* **2** [C] the top of a body of liquid: *The surface of the lake was quite still.* | *The stone sank below the surface of the pond.* | *The* **surface tension** *of a body of liquid ensures that its surface covers the smallest possible area.* **3** [(*the*)] the part that is easily seen, not the main (hidden) part: *He seems rather shy* **on the surface,** *but he's quite different when you get to know him.* | *Beneath that apparently calm surface is a man of fierce temper.* | *These measures hardly* **scratch the surface** *of the problem.* (=deal only with its easily seen parts, not the more important parts)

surface[2] *v* **1** [I] to come to the surface of water: *Fish were surfacing to catch insects.* | (fig.) *Old rivalries have begun to surface again.* **2** [T] to give a surface to; cover (esp. a road) with hard material **3** [I] *infml, often humor* to wake up or get out of bed and make one's first appearance of the day: *He doesn't usually surface until 10 o'clock.*

surface[3] *adj* [A] **1** being or working on the surface of the earth or sea, rather than beneath it: **Surface workers** *are paid less than their colleagues who work down the mines.* | *The Americans are strengthening their* **surface fleet.** (=not including SUBMARINES) **2** (of post) travelling

by land and sea: *Surface mail takes much longer than airmail.* **3** having no importance or depth; SUPERFICIAL: *surface difficulties|friendliness*

surface-to-air /ˌ·· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] (of a weapon) fired from the Earth towards aircraft: *surface-to-air missiles*

surface-to-surface /ˌ·· · ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] (of a weapon) fired from land or sea at a TARGET that is also on the Earth's surface: *a suface-to-surface missile*

surf·board /ˈsɜːfbɔːd‖ˈsɜːrfbɔːrd/ *n* a long narrow piece of plastic, wood, etc., for riding on waves as they come in towards the shore

sur·feit[1] /ˈsɜːfɪ̈t‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* [S (**of**)] *rather fml* too large an amount or supply; more than is needed or reasonable: *a surfeit of food|television*

surfeit[2] *v* [T (**with**)] *fml* to cause (esp. oneself) to have too much of something; SATIATE

surge[1] /sɜːdʒ‖sɜːrdʒ/ *n* [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] a sudden powerful forward movement, of or like a wave: *A surge of demonstrators broke through the fence.* | (fig.) *He felt a surge of anger at the sight.* | (fig.) *a surge of support|enthusiasm for the plan* | *a sudden surge in sales*

surge[2] *v* [I+*adv|prep*] **1** to move, esp. forward, in or like powerful waves: *The crowd surged past him|surged through the gates.* **2** [esp. UP] (of a feeling) to appear quickly and powerfully: *Anger surged (up) within him.*

sur·geon /ˈsɜːdʒən‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* a doctor whose job is to perform medical operations —see also DENTAL SURGEON

Surgeon Gen·e·ral /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* **Surgeons General** (in the US) the chief medical officer in the army, navy, or esp. the government. The Surgeon General is responsible for matters that have an effect on public health, e.g. the warnings on cigarette packets.

sur·ge·ry /ˈsɜːdʒəri‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the performing of medical operations, usu. including the cutting open of the skin: *Your condition is serious and requires surgery.* (=you will need an operation) —see also PLASTIC SURGERY —see also extra information on page 829 **2** [C;U] *BrE* ‖ **clinic** *AmE*— (the hours of opening of) a place where one or a group of doctors or DENTISTS give people advice on their health and medicines to treat illnesses: *Their surgery is in James Street.* | *What time does surgery finish?* —compare CLINIC[1] **3** [C] *BrE* a period of time during which people can come and see a member of parliament, lawyer, etc., and ask their advice: *Our local MP holds a surgery on Saturday mornings.*

sur·gi·cal /ˈsɜːdʒɪkəl‖ˈsɜːr-/ *adj* **1** of or used for surgery: *a surgical knife* —compare MEDICAL **2** [A] (of a garment) made and worn as a treatment for a particular physical condition: *surgical stockings* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

surgical spir·it /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **rubbing alcohol** *AmE*— *n* [U] a type of alcohol used for cleaning wounds or skin in hospital

surgical strike /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* an attack which bombs a particular building or place: *surgical strikes on missile sites*

Su·ri·nam , Suriname /ˌsʊərɪ̈ˈnæm‖-ˈnɑːm/ a country in NE South America between Guyana and French Guiana, formerly known as **Dutch Guiana**; capital Paramaribo; population 398,000 (1989) —~**ese** /ˌsʊərɪ̈nəˈmiːz◂/ *n, adj*

sur·ly /ˈsɜːli‖ˈsɜːrli/ *adj* bad-tempered and bad-mannered, esp. habitually: *a surly look|refusal* | *She's always so surly; she never smiles at anyone.*

sur·mise[1] /səˈmaɪz‖sər-/ *v* [T+*obj|(that)*] *fml* to suppose as a reasonable guess, though without clear proof: *From his letter I surmised that he was unhappy.*

sur·mise[2] /səˈmaɪz, ˈsɜːmaɪz‖sər-, ˈsɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an) opinion not based on clear proof; guess: *His remarks were pure surmise.* | *a series of wild surmises*

sur·mount /səˈmaʊnt‖sər-/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to succeed in dealing with (esp. a difficulty); OVERCOME: *I think most of these obstacles can be surmounted.* —see also INSURMOUNTABLE **2** [*usu. pass.*] to be above or on top of: *The house was surmounted by a tall chimney.* —~**able** *adj*

sur·name /ˈsɜːneɪm‖ˈsɜːr-/ also **family name** ‖ *usu* **last name** *AmE*— *n* the name a person shares with all members of their family. In English the surname is usu. said last, e.g. in the name George Henry Smith the surname is Smith: *"What's Alan's surname?" "Johnson."* —compare FIRST NAME

sur·pass /səˈpɑːs‖sərˈpæs/ *v* [T] *fml* to go beyond in amount, quality, or degree; EXCEED: *The results surpassed all our expectations.*

sur·pass·ing /səˈpɑːsɪŋ‖sərˈpæ-/ *adj* [A] *lit* to a degree above anything else: *her surpassing beauty*

sur·plice /ˈsɜːplɪ̈s‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* a garment made of white material worn over a darker garment during religious services by some Christian priests and church singers

sur·plus /ˈsɜːpləs‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n, adj* (an amount) additional to what is needed or used: *Mexico has a large surplus of oil|a large oil surplus.* | *These chairs are* **surplus to requirements;** *send them back.* | *We're giving away all our surplus apples.* | *Japan's big* **trade surplus** *with the rest of the world* (=gained by selling more goods to other countries than are bought from other countries)

sur·prise[1] /səˈpraɪz‖sər-/ *n* **1** [U] the feeling caused by something unexpected: *You can imagine my surprise when she told me she'd got married last year.* | **Much to my surprise** (=I did not expect this to happen), *they offered me the job.* **2** [C] an unexpected event: *It was a pleasant surprise to see them again.* | *News of the company's financial difficulties came as an unpleasant surprise to the shareholders.* | *We're holding a surprise party for her retirement.* | *a surprise attack* (=made without warning) **3 take someone by surprise** to happen unexpectedly and cause surprise to, esp. in a way that leaves one unprepared: *The sudden cold weather took us all by surprise.*

surprise[2] *v* [T] **1** to cause surprise or shock to: *Her refusal surprised us all.* | *It surprised me to see so many people there.* **2** to find, catch, or attack when unprepared: *They surprised the burglars in the act of opening the safe.*

sur·prised /səˈpraɪzd‖sər-/ *adj* [(**at**)] feeling or showing surprise or shock: *a surprised expression on her face* | *I was surprised at|by her reaction.* [F+*to-v|(that)*] *We were surprised to learn that he was French.* | *I'm surprised (that) she didn't sack you on the spot.* | *I* **wouldn't be surprised if** *he changed his mind.* (=he probably will change his mind)

sur·pris·ing /səˈpraɪzɪŋ‖sər-/ *adj* unusual or unexpected; causing surprise: *It's surprising how big they are.* | *He reacted with surprising speed.* | *It's* **hardly surprising** *that she was annoyed.* (=this is exactly what one would expect) —~**ly** *adv* : *It was surprisingly easy.*

sur·real /səˈrɪəl/ *adj* having a strange dreamlike unreal quality

sur·real·is·m /səˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] a modern type of art and literature in which the painter, writer, etc., connects unrelated images and objects in a strange dreamlike way; famous surrealist painters include Marc Chagall and Salvador Dali

sur·real·ist /səˈrɪəlɪ̈st/ *n, adj* (a painter, writer, or other person) concerned with surrealism: *the surrealist movement active in the 1930s*

sur·real·is·tic /səˌrɪəˈlɪstɪk◂/ *adj* **1** of or concerned with surrealism: *a surrealistic painting* **2** surreal

sur·ren·der[1] /səˈrendəʳ/ *v* **1** [I;T (**to**)] to give up or give in to the power (esp. of an enemy), as a sign of defeat: *After three days, the hijackers surrendered (themselves) to the police.* | (fig.) *The government has surrendered to the pressure of big business and lowered interest rates.* **2** [T] *fml* to give up possession or control of, completely or for a short time: *I hereby surrender all claim to the money.* | *You'll have to surrender your passport at the hotel desk.*

surrender[2] *n* [C;U] the act of surrendering: *They were forced to make an* **unconditional surrender.** | *We will fight on to the end; there will be no surrender.*

sur·rep·ti·tious /ˌsʌrəpˈtɪʃəs◂/ *adj* done, gained, etc., secretly, esp. for dishonest reasons: *When no one was looking he took a surreptitious puff on his cigarette.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

sur·rey /ˈsʌri ‖ ˈsɜː-/ *n AmE* a light horse-drawn carriage with four wheels and two seats

Surrey a COUNTY in SE England

sur·ro·ga·cy /ˈsʌrəgəsi‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n* [U] **1** the state of being a surrogate **2** the act of becoming a SURROGATE MOTHER

sur·ro·gate /ˈsʌrəgeɪt, -gɪ̈t‖ˈsɜːr-/ *n, adj* [A] *fml* (a person or thing) acting or used in place of another; SUBSTITUTE

surrogate moth·er /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* a woman who has a baby for another woman who cannot have one herself, using either an egg or SPERM from the two people who will be

the baby's parents. There is some disagreement about the ETHICS of this, esp. when the surrogate mother decides that she wants to keep the baby after it is born. In Britain and the US it is now against the law to pay a surrogate mother, but she can agree to become one as a favour for a friend or relative. —~**hood** *n*

sur·round[1] /sə'raʊnd/ *v* [T] **1** to be all around on every side: *A high wall surrounds the prison camp.* | *She was sitting on the floor surrounded by books.* | (fig.) *The whole affair is surrounded by controversy.* | (fig.) *a beautiful woman surrounded by* (=having many) *admirers* **2** to go around and take up position on every side, esp. in order to prevent escape: *The police surrounded the house.*

surround[2] *n* a usu. decorative edge or border: *This old fireplace has a very attractive surround.*

sur·round·ing /sə'raʊndɪŋ/ *adj* [A] around and nearby: *in the surrounding area*

sur·round·ings /sə'raʊndɪŋz/ *n* [P] everything that surrounds a place or person, esp. as it influences the quality of life: *The house is situated in very pleasant surroundings.* | *She grew up in comfortable surroundings.* —compare ENVIRONMENT

sur·veil·lance /sɜː'veɪləns‖sɜːr-/ *n* [U] a close watch kept on someone, esp. someone who is believed to have criminal intentions: *The police have been* **keeping** *her* **under surveillance.** | *strict surveillance of all incoming flights*

sur·vey[1] /sə'veɪ‖sər-/ *v* [T] **1** to look at, examine, or consider (a person, place, or condition) as a whole: *We surveyed the view from the top of the hill.* | *If you survey the current state of British industry, it's pretty discouraging.* **2** to examine the condition of (a building), esp. professionally: *Have the house surveyed before you buy it.* —see also SURVEYOR **3** *tech* to measure and record on a map the details of (an area of land): *to survey the east coast* **4** [*often pass.*] to question when making a SURVEY[2] (1a): *Almost 60% of those surveyed said they supported the President's action.*

sur·vey[2] /'sɜːveɪ‖'sɜːr-/ *n* **1 a** a general examination or study (of conditions, opinions, etc.), esp. carried out by asking people questions: *to do/make/carry out a survey of public attitudes* | *The latest survey shows a majority in support of government policy.* **b** a general (usu. written) description (of a situation, set of ideas, etc.): *She has written a survey of modern English literature.* **2** a professional examination of a house, esp. for someone who may buy it: *Make sure you get a proper survey.*

sur·vey·or /sə'veɪəʳ‖sər-/ *n* a person whose job is to SURVEY[1] (2,3) buildings or land —see also QUANTITY SURVEYOR

sur·viv·al /sə'vaɪvəl‖sər-/ *n* **1** [U] the fact or likelihood of surviving: *Hopes are fading for the survival of the missing climbers.* | (fig.) *fighting for her political survival* **2** [C] *esp. BrE* something which has continued to exist from an earlier time, esp. when similar ones have disappeared; RELIC: *That fashion is a survival from the 1970s.*

survival kit /·'·· ·/ *n* a packet containing the few articles needed to keep one alive when one is lost or hurt beyond the range of help

survival of the fit·test /·ˌ·· · · '··/ *n* [U] **1** (a quote from *Principles of Biology* by the English PHILOSOPHER **Herbert Spencer** (1820–1903); NATURAL SELECTION **2** any situation in which unsuccessful competitors are quickly destroyed or defeated. The phrase is sometimes used humorously in other ways: *Remarkable survival of the quickest.*

sur·vive /sə'vaɪv‖sər-/ *v* **1** [I (**on**)] to continue to live or exist, esp. after coming close to death: *Her parents died in the accident, but she survived.* | *He survived in the desert for a week on biscuits and water.* | *Very few of these old coins survive.* (=are still in existence now) | (fig.) *"How can you cope with this huge amount of work?" "Don't worry; I'll survive."* **2** [T] to continue to live or exist after: *Few buildings survived the fire.* | *She survived her sons.* | *The government is unlikely to survive the next election.* —-**vivable** *adj* : *Is nuclear war survivable?*

sur·vi·vor /sə'vaɪvəʳ‖sər-/ *n* a person or living thing who has continued to live, esp. in spite of coming close to death: *There was only one survivor from/of the plane crash.* | (fig.) *Don't worry about him; he's a survivor.* (=he always manages to continue in spite of difficulties)

Su·sann /suː'zæn/, **Jac·que·line** /'dʒækəliːn/ (1926–74) an American writer of popular NOVELS, e.g. *Valley of the Dolls*

sus·cep·ti·ble /sə'septɨbəl/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] easily influenced (by): *He is very susceptible to persuasion.* **2** [F+**to**] likely to suffer from: *She's rather susceptible to colds.* **3** tending to experience strong feelings easily; IMPRESSIONABLE: *He's a very susceptible boy.* **4** [F+**of**] *law or fml* able to have or be changed by: *This agreement is not susceptible of alteration.* —-**bility** /səˌseptɨ'bɪlɨti/ *n* [U (**to**)] : *This policy has no regard for the susceptibilities* (=strong feelings) *of the minority groups.*

su·shi /'suːʃi/ *n* [U] Japanese food consisting of pieces of raw fish on top of cooked rice: *a sushi bar* (=a place where this is served)

sus laws /'sʌs lɔːz/ *n* [P] *BrE, sl* (formerly) laws which allowed the police to stop and ARREST a person thought to be about to COMMIT a crime, esp. a street crime, without needing formal EVIDENCE. These laws caused a great deal of bad feeling against the police, who were believed by some, esp. young black people, to treat them in particular with SUSPICION.

sus·pect[1] /sə'spekt/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** to believe (esp. something bad) to be true or likely: *She was found dead in her apartment, and the police suspect murder.* | *They said the problem was in the engine, which was just what I had suspected.* [+(*that*)] *We suspected (that) he was the murderer even before we were told.* **2** [(**of**)] to believe (someone) to be guilty: *They suspect him of murder/of giving false evidence.* | *Who do you suspect?* | *She was suspected of being a spy.* | *police surveillance of suspected terrorists* **3** to doubt the truth or value of; distrust: *I suspect his motives.* **4** [+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] *infml* to suppose or guess: *I suspect you may be right.*

sus·pect[2] /'sʌspekt/ *n* a person who is suspected of guilt, esp. in a crime: *The police have arrested two suspects.*

suspect[3] *adj* of uncertain truth, quality, legality, etc.: *The customs authorities have impounded some suspect crates and ordered them to be opened.* | *His fitness is suspect, so we can't risk including him in the team.*

sus·pend /sə'spend/ *v* [T] **1** to stop or cause to be inactive or ineffective for a period of time: *Parliament has been suspended because of the civil unrest.* | *Sales of this drug have been suspended until more tests have been performed.* | *I'd like to* **suspend judgment** *on this until I've heard more of the facts.* **2** [(**from**)] to prevent from taking part in a team, belonging to a group, etc., for a time, usu. because of misbehaviour or breaking rules: *She has been suspended from the team.* **3** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **from**] *fml* to hang from above: *They suspended a rope from a branch.* **4** [*usu. pass.*] *fml* to hold still in liquid or air: *They could see the dust suspended in the beam of light.*

suspended an·i·ma·tion /·ˌ·· ··'··/ *n* [U] **1** temporary suspension of life in the body, as in a person who has almost drowned **2** (esp. in SCIENCE FICTION stories) such a state, which someone is held in or trapped in, to be brought back to normal life later

suspended sen·tence /·ˌ·· '··/ *n* a punishment given by a court of a period in prison which the offender only has to serve if he or she COMMITS another crime in that period of time. This type of sentence can be given for a crime where the punishment is up to two years in prison, and is given for two main reasons; first, to reduce the prison population, and secondly, because the court believes that the threat of prison will be enough to stop the person reoffending. —compare CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE

sus·pend·er /sə'spendəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **garter** *AmE*— *n* a fastener hanging down from an UNDERGARMENT (a **suspender belt/garter belt**) to hold a woman's STOCKINGS up. These are now less common, as many women prefer to wear TIGHTS instead, but stockings are considered more sexy and may be worn for this reason.

sus·pend·ers /sə'spendəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] *AmE for* BRACES —see PAIR (USAGE)

sus·pense /sə'spens/ *n* [U] a state of uncertainty about something that is undecided or not yet known, causing either anxiety or sometimes pleasant excitement: *The competitors in the beauty contest were* **kept in suspense** *waiting for the result.* | *The suspense was unbearable.* | *The children waited in suspense to hear the end of the story.*

sus·pen·sion /sə'spenʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of suspending or the fact of being suspended: *The government has*

ordered the immediate suspension of exports to that country. | *I thought her suspension from the team was a very harsh punishment.* **2** [C] a liquid mixture with very small pieces of solid material contained but not combined in the liquid –compare COLLOID see SUSPEND (4) **3** [C] the apparatus fixed to the wheels of a car, motorcycle, etc., to lessen the effects of rough road surfaces

suspension bridge /·'·· ·/ *n* a bridge hung from CABLES (=strong steel ropes) fixed to towers

sus·pi·cion /sə'spɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] **a** (a) belief that someone is or may be guilty; a case of suspecting or being suspected (SUSPECT[1] (2)): *She's been arrested* **on suspicion** *of spying.* | *He is* **under suspicion** *of murder.* | *I'm not sure who took it, but I have my suspicions.* **b** lack of trust: *She always treated us with suspicion.* **2** [C] a feeling of suspecting (SUSPECT[1]) the truth or existence of something bad or unpleasant: *The boy's pale face and lack of appetite aroused the teacher's suspicions.* [+(*that*)] *I have a suspicion (that) you're right.* **3** [S (**of**)] a slight amount (of something seen, heard, tasted, etc.): *just a suspicion of garlic in the soup*

sus·pi·cious /sə'spɪʃəs/ *adj* **1** [(**of , about**)] suspecting (SUSPECT[1]) guilt or wrongdoing; not trusting: *suspicious of her intentions* | *I'm a bit suspicious about that package that's been left in the corridor.* | *His strange behaviour made the police suspicious.* **2** causing one to suspect (SUSPECT[1]) guilt, wrongdoing, etc.; SUSPECT[3]: *suspicious behaviour* | *That package in the corridor looks a bit suspicious.* | *If you see anything suspicious, inform the police at once.* | *a suspicious-looking character* – ~**ly** *adv* : *She looked at me suspiciously.* | *He was arrested for acting suspiciously.* | (*humor*) *That pen you're using looks suspiciously like the one I lost last week.*

suss /sʌs/ *v* [T+(*that*);*obj*] *BrE sl* to discover the fact that; REALIZE: *I soon sussed that he wasn't telling the truth.*

suss sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *BrE sl* to find out details about quietly or secretly: *They must have sussed out the layout of the office before planning the robbery.*

Sus·sex /'sʌsɪ̯ks/ a former COUNTY in S England, divided since 1974 into East Sussex and West Sussex

sus·tain /sə'steɪn/ *v* [T] **1** to keep up the strength, spirits, or determination of: *A light meal won't sustain us through the day.* | *She ate a good sustaining breakfast before she went out.* | *The knowledge that a rescue team would be searching for them sustained the trapped miners.* **2** to keep in existence over a long period; MAINTAIN: *He couldn't sustain his interest in it.* | *She owes her success to sustained hard work.* | *three years of sustained economic growth* **3** *fml* to suffer (harm or loss): *The car sustained severe damage in the accident.* **4** *fml* to hold up (the weight of something): *I don't think this floor will sustain the weight of a grand piano.* **5** *law* to accept as being in accordance with the law or justice: *The judge sustained the lawyer's objection.*

sus·tain·able /sə'steɪnəbəl/ *adj* (of a policy, process, etc.) able to continue or last for a long time: *sustainable economic development* | *a sustainable rate of growth*

sus·te·nance /'sʌstənəns/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** the ability of food to keep people strong and healthy: *You won't get much sustenance out of one bar of chocolate.* **2** food which does this; NOURISHMENT: *The children were thin and badly in need of sustenance.*

Sut·cliff /'sʌtklɪf/, **Rosemary** (1920–92) an English writer of books, for adults and children, set in the past, e.g. *The Eagle of the Ninth*

Sut·cliffe /'sʌtklɪf/, **Peter** (1946–) the name of the famous murderer known as the Yorkshire Ripper

Suth·er·land[1] /'sʌðələnd‖-ðər-/ a former COUNTY in NW Scotland, now part of the Highland REGION

Sutherland[2], **Don·ald** /'dɒnəld‖'dɑ:-/ (1934–) a Canadian film actor known for his films such as *Don't Look Now* and *Ordinary People*

Sutherland[3], **Graham** (1903–80) an English painter and artist, known mainly for his picture of Winston Churchill which was later burned on the instructions of Lady Churchill

Sutherland[4], **Dame Joan** /dʒəʊn/ (1926–) an Australian SOPRANO singer, who came to England in 1951 and later sang in *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*

su·tra /'su:trə/ *n* (a piece of) Hindu holy writing

sut·tee /'sʌti:/ *n* [U] the ancient custom in the Hindu religion of a wife being burnt with her dead husband. This is forbidden in India now, but is still carried out in spite of this and the woman is believed to go to the Hindu PARADISE as a reward.

Sut·ton Hoo /ˌsʌtn 'hu:/ a place in Suffolk, E England, where people digging in 1939 found a SAXON ship with weapons, jewellery, and other things believed to have been buried with a king in the seventh century

su·ture[1] /'su:tʃəʳ/ *n* (a stitch or stitches used in) the sewing together of a wound

suture[2] *v* [T] to sew up with sutures: *The doctor sutured the wound.*

Su·va /'su:və/ the capital of Fiji, on the island of Viti Levu

Su·wan·nee /sə'wɒni‖-'wɑ:-/ also **Swanee**– a river in the S of the US, flowing through Georgia and Florida to the Gulf of Mexico made famous by the song "Swanee River" by Stephen Foster

su·ze·rain /'su:zəreɪn‖-rən, -reɪn/ *n fml, becoming rare* **1** a state which controls the foreign affairs of another state **2** (in former times) a ruling lord

su·ze·rain·ty /'su:zərənti/ *n* [U] *fml, becoming rare* the fact or state of being a suzerain

Su·zhou /ˌsu:'dʒəʊ/ also **Su-chou, Soochow**– a city in E China, also known as **Wuxian** or **Wu-hsein**, known for its PAGODAS and making of silk

Suz·man /'sʊzmən/, **Hel·en** /'helən/ (1917–) a South African politician and worker for human rights, esp. for racial equality within her country

Su·zu·ki /sə'zu:ki/ *n* a motorcycle made by the Japanese company Suzuki

Suzuki meth·od /·'·· ˌ··/ *n* [*the*] *tdmk* a system of teaching young children to play the VIOLIN, by making them copy and repeat the music teacher

svelte /svelt/ *adj apprec* (esp. of a woman) thin, graceful, and well-shaped; SLIM

Sven·ga·li /sven'gɑ:li/ *n* a person with a strange power to make other people act in a certain, esp. bad, way (from a character in the NOVEL *Trilby* by George du Maurier): *He still continues to exert a Svengali-like hold over her career.* | *The judge branded him a Svengali who sapped his wife's self-esteem.*

Sverd·lovsk /ˌsveəd'lɒfsk‖ˌsveərd'lɔ:fsk/ a city in the Ural mountains in Russia; an industrial and CULTURAL centre

SW *written abbrev. for:* southwest(ern)

swab[1] /swɒb‖swɑ:b/ *n* **1** a small piece of material used for holding liquid to be tested for infection, for cleaning wounds, etc. **2** a test using such a piece of material: *Take a swab of his throat, nurse.* **3** a cleaning cloth, esp. as used on the floors of a ship

swab[2] *v* **-bb-** [T] **1** [(DOWN)] to clean (esp. the floors (DECKS) of a ship): *The young sailor had to swab down the decks every morning.* **2** [(OUT)] to clean (a wound) with a swab

swad·dle /'swɒdl‖'swɑ:dl/ *v* [T] to wrap (a baby) tightly in many coverings

swaddling clothes /'·· ·/ *n* [P] *esp. bibl* the pieces of cloth wound round swaddled babies

swag /swæg/ *n* [U] **1** *sl* the goods obtained in a robbery. In British CARTOONS thieves often have a bag marked "swag". –compare LOOT **2** *AustrE* a set of clothes and belongings wrapped in a cloth, as carried by travellers and wanderers

swag·ger[1] /'swægəʳ/ *v* [I] to walk with a swinging movement, in a way that shows too much self-confidence or self-satisfaction: *He swaggered down the street after winning the fight.* – ~**er** *n* – ~**ingly** *adv*

swagger[2] *n* [S;U] an over-confident and self-satisfied manner, esp. of walking: *He walked down the street with a swagger.*

Swag·gert /'swægət‖-ərt/, **Jimmy** (1935–) an American PREACHER (=religious leader) and television EVANGELIST. In 1988 Swaggert was forced to admit that he had visited a PROSTITUTE (=a woman who exchanges sex for money).

Swa·hi·li /swɑ:'hi:li, swə-/ *n* **1** [U] a BANTU language spoken in eastern and central Africa, and used as a LINGUA FRANCA **2** [C] **Swahili** or **-lis** a member of the Bantu people of Zanzibar who originally spoke this language –**Swahilian** *adj*

swain /sweɪn/ *n lit or poet* a young man in a country village, esp. a lover or admirer of a girl

SWALK /swɔːlk, swælk‖swɔːlk/ *phrase* sealed with a loving kiss (written on the back of an envelope to express the feelings of the sender)

swal·low[1] /ˈswɒləʊ‖ˈswɑː-/ *v* **1** [T] to move (food or drink) down the throat from the mouth and towards the stomach: *to swallow a mouthful of bread/soup | Swallow your medicine!* **2** [I] to make this movement of the throat, esp. as a sign of nervousness: *He swallowed hard, and walked into the interview room.* **3** [T] *infml* to accept patiently or without question: *They can't treat me like that; I'm not going to swallow it. | Her excuse was obviously a lie, but he* **swallowed it whole.** *| I find that a bit hard to swallow.* **4** [T] to hold back (uncomfortable feelings, tears, etc.); not to show or express: *When he lost his job he had to* **swallow his pride** *and ask for money from his sister.* **5 swallow one's words** to admit that something one said is wrong

swallow sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to take in or use up completely; cause to disappear: *The increase in travel costs swallowed up our pay increase. | She was swallowed up by the crowd and we lost sight of her. | a small company that was swallowed up by one of the multinationals*

swallow[2] *n* an act of swallowing or an amount swallowed

swallow[3] *n* **1** a small bird with pointed wings and a double-pointed tail, which comes to northern countries in summer —see picture at BIRD **2 one swallow does not make a summer** do not think that the troubles of life are over because you have sorted out one difficulty

swallow dive /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **swan dive** /ˈ· ·/ *AmE*— *n* a DIVE[2] into water, starting with the arms stretched out from the sides of the body

Swallows and Am·a·zons /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ a book for children by Arthur Ransome, written in 1930, about the adventures of a group of children playing in boats

swam /swæm/ *past tense of* SWIM

swa·mi /ˈswɑːmi/ *n* a Hindu religious teacher

swamp[1] /swɒmp‖swɑːmp, swɔːmp/ *n* [C;U] (an area of) land which is always full of or covered with water —compare MARSH — **~y** *adj* : *swampy ground*

swamp[2] *v* [T] **1** [*usu. pass.*] to cause to have a large amount, e.g. of work or problems, to deal with; INUNDATE: *We were swamped with phone calls after our advertisement in the paper.* **2** to make completely wet; flood

swan[1] /swɒn‖swɑːn/ *n* a large white bird, similar to a duck but bigger and with a long neck, which lives on rivers and lakes —see picture at WATER BIRD

swan[2] *v* **-nn-** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to go or travel purposelessly or irresponsibly: *She spent the summer* **swanning around** *Europe. | What makes you think you can* **swan off** *to the cinema when you should be at work?*

Swa·nee /ˈswɒni‖ˈswɑː-/ see SUWANNEE

swank[1] /swæŋk/ *v* [I] *infml* to behave or speak in a very self-confident way, esp. to get attention and admiration: *Stop swanking; you're not the only person who's got a fast car.*

swank[2] *n infml* **1** [U] proud self-confident talk or behaviour, intended to attract admiration: *Don't pay any attention to all his talk about fast cars; it's just a lot of swank.* **2** [C] a person who swanks

swank·y /ˈswæŋki/ ‖ also **swank** *AmE adj infml* **1** very fashionable or expensive; POSH: *It was a really swanky party.* **2** *derog* tending to swank

Swan Lake /ˌ· ˈ·/ (the name of) a famous BALLET with music by Tchaikovsky, written in 1895 and first performed in Russia

Swann /swɒn‖swɑːn/, **Don·ald** /ˈdɒnəld‖ˈdɑː-/ (1923–) a Welsh songwriter and performer, esp. with Michael Flanders

Swan·sea /ˈswɒnzi‖ˈswɑːnsi/ a city in Wales with a university; once an industrial port used for coal, and now attractive to tourists for the nearby GOWER PENINSULA and the mountains of the BRECON BEACONS —see colour map on page 818

Swan·son /ˈswɒnsən‖ˈswɑː-/, **Glo·ri·a** /ˈglɔːriə/ (1897–1983) an American actress known for appearances in silent films

swan·song /ˈswɒnsɒŋ‖ˈswɑːnsɔːŋ/ *n* the last piece of work or performance of a poet, painter, etc.: *Shakespeare's "Henry VIII" turned out to be his swansong.*

swan-up·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n BrE* a person whose job is to catch and mark CYGNETS (=young SWANS) to show who owns them

swan-up·ping /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *BrE* the practice of catching CYGNETS and marking their beaks to show who owns them, esp. the custom of doing this every year on the river Thames

swap[1], **swop** /swɒp‖swɑːp/ *v* **-pp-** [I;T (ROUND, OVER, **for, with**)] *infml* to exchange (goods or positions), usu. so that each person gets what they want: *I swapped three of my foreign stamps for three of hers. | I liked her coat and she liked mine, so we swapped/I swapped coats with her. | I want to sit where you're sitting: shall we* **swap round/swap over/swap places?** [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*+**for**] (*infml*) *I'll swap you three of mine for one of yours.*

swap[2] **, swop** *n infml* **1** [*usu. sing.*] an exchange: *Let's* **do a swap.** **2** a thing that has been or may be exchanged

swap meet /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a gathering where people buy and sell or exchange used goods

SWAPO /ˈswɑːpəʊ/ the South-West Africa People's Organization; a Namibian independence movement

sward /swɔːd‖swɔːrd/ *n old use or lit* a stretch of grassy land; GREENSWARD

swarf /swɔːf‖swɔːrf/ *n* [U] small bits of metal, plastic, etc., produced by a cutting tool in operation

Swar·fe·ga /swɔːˈfiːgə‖swɔːr-/ *n* [U] *tdmk, BrE* a green substance like JELLY which is used for cleaning oil, paint, etc. off the skin

swarm[1] /swɔːm‖swɔːrm/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a large group of insects moving in a mass, esp. bees with a QUEEN[1] (3) **2** [**(of)**] also **swarms** *pl.*— a moving crowd of people or mass of animals: *Swarms of tourists jostled through the square.*

swarm[2] *v* [I] **1** [+*adv/prep*] to move in a crowd or mass: *As the fire spread, people came swarming out of the building. | The photographers swarmed round her.* **2** (of bees) to leave a HIVE (=place where bees live) in a swarm to find another home

swarm with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to be full of (a moving crowd of people or animals): *The place was swarming with tourists.*

swarm[3] *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *rare* to climb using the hands and feet: *He swarmed up the tree. | She swarmed down the rope.*

swar·thy /ˈswɔːði‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* (of a person or their skin) rather dark-coloured

swash·buck·ling /ˈswɒʃˌbʌkəlɪŋ‖ˈswɑːʃ-, ˈswɔːʃ-/ *adj* like or about daring men who are fond of adventures, sword fighting, etc.: *a swashbuckling pirate film starring Errol Flynn*

swas·ti·ka /ˈswɒstɪkə‖ˈswɑː-/ *n* an ancient sign consisting of a cross with each arm bent at a right angle, used in the 20th century as a sign for the Nazi Party

swastika



swat[1] /swɒt‖swɑːt/ *v* **-tt-** [T] to hit (an insect) with a flat object or hand, esp. to kill it

swat[2] *n* **1** an act of swatting **2** a flat object with a handle for killing flies; FLYSWATTER

SWAT /swɒt‖swɑːt/ Special Weapons and Tactics; a group within the American police which is specially trained to use weapons and deal with dangerous criminals who have weapons

swatch /swɒtʃ‖swɑːtʃ/ *n* a piece (of cloth) as an example of a type or quality of material; SAMPLE

Swatch *n tdmk* a watch from Switzerland, made from plastic and often in bright colours

swath /swɒθ‖swɑːθ/ also **swathe**— *n* **1** a line or area of grass or crops that has been cut by a machine or a SCYTHE (=a grass-cutting tool) **2** any large area of a particular type: *Acid rain is now affecting great swaths of Western Europe.* —see also **cut a swath through** (CUT[1])

swathe /sweɪð‖swɑːð, swɔːð, sweɪð/ *v*

swathe sthg./sbdy. **in** sthg. *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] *esp. lit or fml* to wrap round in cloth: *His head was swathed in bandages.* | (fig.) *hills swathed in mist*

swat·ter /ˈswɒtəʳ‖ˈswɑː-/ *n* an instrument for killing flies; SWAT² (2)

sway¹ /sweɪ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) swing from side to side: *The trees were swaying gently in the wind.* | *She swayed her body in time with the music.* | (fig.) *I'm swaying between two opinions.* **2** [T *often pass.*] to influence (someone), esp. so that they change their opinion: *When you're choosing a career don't be swayed just by promises of future high earnings.* | *He's very easily swayed.*

sway² *n* [U] **1** swaying movement: *The sway of the ship made him fall over.* **2** *old use or lit* power to rule; control: *In medieval times the Church* **held sway over** *many countries.*

Swa·zi /ˈswɑːzi/ *n* **zi** or **zis** **1** [C] a member of the BANTU people of Swaziland **2** [U] the language spoken by the people of Swaziland –**Swazi** *adj*

Swa·zi·land /ˈswɑːzilænd/ a country in SE Africa bordered by South Africa and Mozambique; capital Mbabane; population 763,000 (1989)

swear /sweəʳ/ *v* **swore** /swɔːʳ/, **sworn** /swɔːn‖swɔːrn/ **1** [I (**at**)] to use offensive words that are socially unacceptable; curse: *Stop swearing in front of the children.* | *He tripped over the dog and swore at it.* | *She banged her thumb with the hammer and swore softly, under her breath.* **2** [T] to promise or declare formally or by OATH: *The soldiers swore allegiance to the constitution of the United States.* [+*to-v*/(*that*)] *The witness swore to tell the truth/swore that she would tell the truth.* | *a sworn statement* **3** [I;T (**on**)] to declare (an OATH), esp. in a court of law: *Before giving evidence you have to swear an oath/swear on the Bible.* **4** [T+(*that*);~~*obj*~~;*not in progressive forms*] *infml* to state firmly: *He said he was there all the time, but I swear I never saw him.*

swear by sthg. *phr v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *infml* to have great confidence in the value of: *He swears by vitamin C pills, and says he hasn't had a cold since he started taking them.*

swear sbdy. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] **1** to cause to take an OATH of loyalty: *The new President was sworn in.* | *a swearing-in ceremony* **2** to cause (a witness) to take the OATH in a court of law

swear to *phr v* [T] **1** (**swear** sbdy. **to** sthg.) to cause to make a solemn promise of: *You must swear him to silence.* | *sworn to secrecy* **2** [*no pass.*;*usu. in negatives*] (**swear to** sthg.) to declare the truth of with certainty: *I think it was him I saw, but I couldn't/wouldn't swear to it.* [+*v-ing*] *I couldn't swear to having seen him.*

swear box /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **cuss box** *AmE*– *n* a box which some people keep and which they ask people to put money in when they swear, usu. to try to stop people swearing

swear·word /ˈsweəwɜːd‖ˈsweərwɜːrd/ *n* a word considered offensive or shocking by most people

►CULTURAL NOTE Some swearwords, often called **four-letter words** and marked *taboo* in this dictionary, such as **fuck**, are considered very shocking, and would not be used on a television programme or in conversation unless with the intention of causing offence. These words are often removed from films on television, although they may be allowed in the cinema because the film will be given an **X-certificate**, or rated X in the US, which means that only adults can see it. Some people may use these words in the company of their friends but would not use them in front of their parents or their children. There is also an old-fashioned belief that it is wrong to swear when there are women in the room. Other swearwords, such as **damn**, **hell**, or **bloody**, are less strong, and are more acceptable, especially in a situation where someone hurts themselves or does something stupid, but even these words will give offence to some, esp. older people or religious people, and care should always be taken before using any swearword. It is also considered bad to swear in front of children.◄

sweat¹ /swet/ *v* **1** [I] also **perspire** *euph or tech*– to have sweat coming out through the skin: *He was sweating after his run/sweating with fear.* **2** [I] to show liquid on the surface, coming from inside: *The cheese is sweating.* **3** [I] *infml* to be in a state of great anxiety or nervous impatience: *We were really sweating as we waited for them to announce the results.* | *Don't tell them yet; make them sweat a bit.* **4** [T] *BrE* to cook gently in melted fat: *Sweat the vegetables until the juices run out.* **5 sweat blood** *infml* to work unusually hard: *I've sweated blood over this report.* **6 sweat one's guts out** *infml* to work very hard on something, esp. in a physical way: *I've sweated my guts out trying to get this shed built in time*

sweat sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to get rid of (an illness) by causing oneself to sweat **2 sweat it out** *infml* **a** to take hard exercise: *They were sweating it out in the gym.* **b** to suffer an unpleasant situation until it ends: *The young medical student hated watching his first operation, but he had to sweat it out.*

sweat² *n* **1** [U] also **perspiration** *fml or euph*– liquid which comes out from the body through the skin to cool it: *I was covered in sweat/dripping with sweat after playing football.* **2** [S] *infml* an anxious state: *It's really quite a simple task; there's no need to get in a sweat about it.* **3** [S] *infml* hard and usu. uninteresting work: *This job's quite a sweat; I'm exhausted already.* **4** [C] *old-fash infml* a person of great experience, esp. a soldier (esp. in the phrase **old sweat**) **5 no sweat** *infml* (used for saying that something will not cause any difficulty): *"Are you sure you can do it in time?" "No sweat."* –see also COLD SWEAT

sweat·band /ˈswetbænd/ *n* a narrow piece of material **a** sewn or stuck round the inside of a hat to prevent damage by sweat **b** worn round the wrist or forehead to prevent sweat running down, esp. during sport

sweat·ed /ˈswetɪd/ *adj* [A] *derog* done by workers forced to work long hours for little money: *sweated labour*

sweat·er /ˈswetəʳ/ *n* a knitted (KNIT) usu. woollen GARMENT for the top of the body, usu. without buttons or other fastenings and pulled on over the head –compare CARDIGAN and see also JERSEY, JUMPER, PULLOVER

sweat gland /ˈ· ·/ *n* any of the many small organs under the skin from which liquid comes out to cool the skin

sweat pants /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* thick cotton trousers worn during sports, usu. having string to hold them at the waist (a DRAWSTRING) and elastic at the ankles.

sweat·shirt /ˈswet-ʃɜːt‖-ʃɜːrt/ *n* a thick cotton GARMENT with long SLEEVES worn on the upper part of the body

sweat·shop /ˈswet-ʃɒp‖-ʃɑːp/ *n derog* a factory or workroom where workers are employed for long hours and low pay often in bad conditions

sweat·y /ˈsweti/ *adj* **1** covered in or containing sweat: *I shook his sweaty hand.* **2** smelly with sweat: *sweaty socks* **3** unpleasantly hot; causing one to sweat: *a sweaty day/job* –**-iness** *n* [U]

swede /swiːd/ *BrE* ‖ **rutabaga** *AmE*– *n* [C;U] a round yellow vegetable like a large TURNIP

Swede *n* a person who comes from or whose parents come from Sweden

Swe·den /ˈswiːdn/ a kingdom in Scandinavia, N Europe; capital Stockholm; population 8,493,000 (1989). It is known for its high standard of living and system of WELFARE, paid for by taxes.

Swe·dish /ˈswiːdɪʃ/ *n* **1** [U] the North Germanic language spoken in Sweden **2** [*the*+P] the people of Sweden –**Swedish** *adj*

Swee·ney¹ /ˈswiːni/ [*the*] *BrE sl* FLYING SQUAD

Swee·ney², **The** a British television programme of the 1970s, with John Thaw and Dennis Waterman as members of the Flying Squad. It was fairly violent, concerned with street crime and had plenty of action.

Sweeney Todd /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a character in an old play who was a man's hairdresser (BARBER) who murdered his customers and had them made into meat pies

sweep¹ /swiːp/ *v* **swept** /swept/ **1** [T] to clean (a floor or similar surface) using a brush: *He swept the room/the path.* | *She swept the floor clean.* –see USAGE **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **a** to remove by brushing: *She swept all the dead leaves off the patio.* **b** to remove or move with a brushing or swinging movement: *The wind swept the leaves away.* | *He swept the papers into a drawer.* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T] to move quickly and powerfully (all over): *The crowd swept through the gates.* | *Thunderstorms swept the whole country.* | *A wave of panic swept over her.* | (fig.) *The new dance craze swept the country.* (=was soon popular everywhere) **4** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to carry along quickly and powerfully: *They were* **swept into power** *on a wave of anti-union feeling.* | *We were swept along by the crowd.* **5** [I+*adv*/*prep*] (of a person) to move quickly in a proud or determined way: *She swept angrily out of the room.* | *He swept past the journalists without stopping to*

talk to any of them. | (fig.) *He swept to victory in the elections.* (=he won easily) **6** [I+*adv/prep*] to be or lie in a curve across land; STRETCH: *The railway line sweeps round the bend in the valley.* | *The hills sweep down to the sea.* **7** [T] to move across while watching or giving a view of: *The old man's eyes* **swept the horizon. 8 sweep the board** to win (easily) everything that can be won: *I swept the board at the casino last night.* **9 sweep someone off their feet: a** to cause someone to fall suddenly in love with one **b** to persuade someone completely and suddenly: *The people were swept off their feet by the force of the speaker's arguments.* **10 sweep something under the carpet** (*BrE*)/**under the rug** (*AmE*) to keep (something bad or shocking) secret

▷ USAGE Compare **brush** and **sweep.** You can **brush** any surface (a shelf, a coat, your teeth, the floor, etc.) using especially a brush with a short handle, held in one hand. You **sweep** a floor, a yard, etc., using a brush with a long handle, held in two hands. —see also CLEAN (USAGE)◁

sweep sthg. ↔ **aside** *phr v* [T] to refuse to pay any attention to: *All our objections were swept aside.*

sweep sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] to remove or destroy completely: *All these ancient privileges will be swept away when the revolution comes.* | (fig.) *I was swept away* (=completely persuaded) *by her enthusiasm.*

sweep up *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**sweep** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to clean a place, esp. by sweeping (waste from) the floor: *After all the guests had left, I swept up (all the mess).* **2** [T] (**sweep** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to pick up in one quick powerful flowing movement: *She swept the child up in her arms and ran off.*

sweep[2] *n* **1** an act of sweeping: *This floor needs a good sweep.* **2** a long swinging movement of the arm with a weapon, etc.: *With a sweep of his sword he cut through the rope.* **3** [*usu. sing.*] a long curved line or area of country: *The long sweep of the distant hills could just be seen.* | (fig.) *I was most impressed by the* **broad sweep of** *her* **argument.** (=covering all parts of the subject) **4** an act of moving out over a broad area to search, attack, etc.: *The rescue services did one last sweep to try and find the missing yachtsman.* **5** *infml for* SWEEPSTAKE: *I won £2 in the office sweep.* **6** *infml for* CHIMNEYSWEEP —see also CLEAN SWEEP

Sweep a hand PUPPET in the form of a black and white dog, who appears on children's television in Britain. He is a friend of Sooty. —see also SOOTY

sweep·er /ˈswiːpəʳ/ *n* **1** a person or thing that sweeps: *a road sweeper* **2** *BrE* (in football) a player who defends from behind other defending players

sweep·ing /ˈswiːpɪŋ/ *adj* **1** including or having an effect on many things; EXTENSIVE: *sweeping plans/changes* **2** showing a lack of consideration of facts or details; too general: *a sweeping statement/generalization* — ~**ly** *adv*

sweep·ings /ˈswiːpɪŋz/ *n* [P] dirt, dust, etc., which is left to be swept up

sweep·stake /ˈswiːpsteɪk/ also **sweep** *infml*— *n* a form of betting (BET[2]), usu. on a horserace, in which those who hold tickets for the winners win all the money paid by those who bought tickets

sweet[1] /swiːt/ *adj* **1** having a taste like that of sugar: *a sweet apple* | *This tea is too sweet.* (=contains too much sugar) | *Do you like sweet or dry wine?* —compare BITTER[1] (1), SOUR[1] (1) **2** pleasing to the senses: *sweet music* | (fig.) *the* **sweet smell of success 3** (esp. of small or young things) charming; lovable: *Your little boy looks very sweet in his new coat.* **4** gentle, kind, or attractive in manner: *a sweet temper/smile* | *How sweet of you to remember my birthday.* **5** [F+**on**] *old-fash infml* in love with — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

sweet[2] *n* **1** [C] *BrE* ‖ *usu* **candy** *AmE*— a small piece of sweet food made of sugar or chocolate, etc.: *Eating sweets is bad for your teeth.* **2** [C;U] *BrE* ‖ **dessert** *AmE* sweet food served at the end of a meal: *Are we having any sweet?* | *Ice cream is my favourite sweet.* **3** *becoming rare* (used when speaking to a loved one): *Don't cry, my sweet.*

sweet-and-sour /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] (of a SAUCE or a food prepared with it, esp. in Chinese cooking) having both sweet and sour tastes together: *sweet-and-sour pork*

sweet·bread /ˈswiːtbred/ *n* an organ (the PANCREAS or THYMUS) from a sheep or young cow, used as food

sweet corn /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **corn** *esp. AmE*— *n* [U] (the tender young seed of) a sweet type of MAIZE

sweet·en /ˈswiːtn/ *n* **1** [I;T] to make or become sweeter: *Shall I sweeten your coffee?* (=by adding sugar to it) **2** [T] to make kinder, gentler, etc.; soften: *A good meal sweetened his temper.* **3** [T (UP)] *infml* to give money or presents to in order to persuade: *They'll have to be sweetened (up) if we want them to award us the contract.*

sweetened con·densed milk /ˌ·· ·ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE for* CONDENSED MILK

sweet·ener /ˈswiːtnəʳ/ *n* **1** a (piece of a) substance used to sweeten food and drink, esp. instead of sugar: *She usually uses honey as a sweetener rather than sugar.* | *a packet of artificial sweeteners* **2** *infml* something given or offered in order to persuade someone, esp. in a way that is not open and honest: *These tax cuts are just a pre-election sweetener.*

sweet FA /ˌswiːt ef ˈeɪ/ also **sweet Fan·ny Ad·ams** /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/— *n* [U] *BrE, euph* nothing at all: *"How much did they pay you for that job?" "Sweet FA."* (*euph* for **sweet fuck-all**, *taboo*)

sweet gum /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a common North American tree with fairly large five-pointed leaves, hard wood, and seeds like prickly balls

sweet·heart /ˈswiːthɑːt‖-hɑːrt/ *n* **1** a person whom one loves: *They were sweethearts for ten years before they married.* —see also CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART **2 a** (used when speaking to someone you love or to a member of your family): *Don't cry, sweetheart.* **b** (used informally as a friendly form of address, esp. by or to a woman): *What can I get you, sweetheart?* (=said e.g. by a person working in a shop or a restaurant) —see DARLING[1] (1) (CULTURAL NOTE)

sweet·ie /ˈswiːti/ *n* **1** *BrE infml* (used esp. by and to children) a SWEET[2] (1) **2** *infml* an attractive lovable little person or thing: *Look at that little dog; isn't he a sweetie!* —see DARLING[1] (CULTURAL NOTE) **3** *AmE* sweetheart

sweetie pie /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE* sweetheart

sweet·meat /ˈswiːtmiːt/ *n old use* a sweet or any food made of or preserved in sugar

sweetness and light /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] friendliness; pleasantness, esp. when not a usual part of someone's character: *She's all sweetness and light when she's talking to her mother-in-law.*

sweet noth·ings /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [P] *humor* things said by lovers to each other: *He spent the whole evening whispering sweet nothings in her ear.*

sweet pea /ˌ· ˈ·‖ˈ· ·/ *n* a climbing plant with sweet-smelling flowers

sweet pep·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ ‖ also **Bell pepper** *AmE*— *n* a GREEN PEPPER or one of the less strong forms of RED PEPPER —see also PEPPER[1] (2)

sweet po·ta·to /ˌ· ·ˈ··, ˈ· ·ˌ··/ ‖ also **yam** *AmE*— *n* a vegetable which looks similar to a potato but has bright orange flesh, and is the root of a tropical climbing plant; often eaten at THANKSGIVING in the US

sweet roll /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE for* DANISH PASTRY

sweet talk /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *infml* insincere talk intended to please or persuade; FLATTERY

sweet-talk /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T] *infml* to (try to) persuade by charming insincere talk or FLATTERY

sweet tooth /ˌ· ˈ·, ˈ· ·/ *n* [S] *infml* a liking for things that are sweet and sugary

swell[1] /swel/ *v* **swelled, swollen** /ˈswəʊlən/ *or* **swelled 1** [I (UP)] to gradually increase in fullness and roundness to beyond the usual or original size: *Her ankle swelled (up)* (=became swollen) *after the fall.* | (fig.) *His heart* **swelled with pride** *as he watched his daughter win the race.* **2** [T] to increase the size or amount of: *We asked them to come to the meeting to* **swell the numbers.** | *The newly-arrived refugees* **swelled the ranks of** (=added to the number of) *the unemployed in the big city.* **3** [I;T (OUT)] to fill or be filled, giving a full round shape: *The wind swelled (out) the sails.* | *The sails swelled (out) in the wind.*

swell[2] *n* **1** [S] the rolling movement of large stretches of the sea up and down, without separate waves: *There's a very* **heavy swell** *today, so we're not going sailing.* **2** [S] an increase of musical sound; CRESCENDO **3** [S]

roundness and fullness: *the firm swell of her breasts* **4** [C] *old-fash infml* a fashionable or important person

swell[3] *adj AmE old-fash infml* very good; excellent: *What a swell idea!*

swell·ing /ˈswelɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a swollen place on the body: *I had a nasty swelling on my foot.* **2** [U] the condition of being swollen: *Their bites can cause swelling.*

swel·ter /ˈweltəʳ/ *v* [I] (of a person) to experience the effects of great heat: *We had to sit and swelter in the classroom while our friends were down at the beach.*

swel·ter·ing /ˈweltərɪŋ/ *adj* unpleasantly hot: *Open a window; it's sweltering in here!*

swept /swept/ *past tense & participle of* SWEEP

swept-back /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having the front edge pointing backwards at an angle from the main part: *swept-back hair | an aircraft with swept-back wings*

swerve[1] /swɜːv‖swɜːrv/ *v* [I] **1** to turn suddenly to one side (when moving along): *The car swerved to the right. | A dog ran in front of the car and we swerved to avoid it.* **2** [(**from**) *usu. in negatives*] to change from an idea or purpose: *I will never swerve from my declared policy on this matter.*

swerve[2] *n* a swerving movement: *a sudden swerve to the left*

swift[1] /swɪft/ *adj* **1** *esp. lit* moving or able to move at great speed, esp. without effort; fast: *a swift runner* **2** ready or quick in action; PROMPT: *a swift reply | The president promised swift and effective retribution against the terrorists.* [F+*to-v*] *They have been swift to deny these rumours.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

swift[2] *n* a small brown fast-flying bird with pointed wings, similar to a SWALLOW[3]

Swift, Jon·a·than /ˈdʒɒnəθən‖ˈdʒɑː-/ (1667–1745) an Irish SATIRICAL writer and CLERIC, who wrote *Gulliver's Travels* as well as many shorter works attacking CORRUPTION in religion and education

swig /swɪg/ *v* **-gg-** [T] *infml* to drink, esp. quickly in large mouthfuls: *They just sat there swigging beer all night.* —**swig** *n* : *He took a swig of beer.*

swill[1] /swɪl/ *v* **1** [T (OUT, DOWN)] to wash (an area) by pouring large amounts of water; FLUSH: *Get a bucket and swill the yard (down).* **2** [I;T] *derog* to drink, esp. carelessly and in large amounts: *They just sat in the pub swilling (beer) all night.*

swill[2] *n* **1** [U] pig food, mostly uneaten human food in partly liquid form **2** [S] an act of washing a place with large amounts of water

swim[1] /swɪm/ *v* **swam** /swæm/, **swum** /swʌm/; *present participle* **swimming** **1** [I] to move oneself through water by using the arms and legs, a tail, FINS, etc.: *We're all going swimming. | She's teaching the children to swim. | They watched the fish swimming in the aquarium. | Some snakes can swim.* —see also BACKSTROKE, BREASTSTROKE, BUTTERFLY, CRAWL[2] (2), DIVE, DOG PADDLE, and SIDESTROKE **2** [T] to cross or complete (a distance) by doing this: *to swim a river|100 metres* **3** [T] to use (a particular stroke) in swimming: *She can swim breaststroke, backstroke, and crawl.* **4** [I (**with, in**)] to be full of or surrounded with liquid: *The soup was swimming with fat. | meat swimming in gravy* **5** [I] to cause one to feel DIZZY; seem to spin round and round: *He was hot and tired and his head was swimming.* **6 swim with/against the tide** to follow/not follow the behaviour of other people around one —see also **sink or swim** (SINK[1]) —~**mer** *n* : *She's a strong swimmer.*

swim[2] *n* **1** [S] an act or occasion of swimming: *Let's go for a swim!* **2 in the swim** *infml* knowing about and concerned in what is going on in modern life

swim·ming /ˈswɪmɪŋ/ *n* [U] the act or sport of one who swims: *Swimming is a good form of exercise. | a swimming club | wearing a swimming cap* —see REFEREE (USAGE)

swimming bath /ˈ·· ·/ also **swimming baths** *pl.*— *n BrE* a public SWIMMING POOL, usu. indoors —see also BATHS; see BATH (USAGE)

swimming cos·tume /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **bathing suit, swim suit** *AmE*— *n* a single piece of clothing worn by women for swimming —compare BIKINI, SWIMMING TRUNKS

swim·ming·ly /ˈswɪmɪŋli/ *adv old-fash infml* easily and successfully: *Everything's going swimmingly.*

swimming pool /ˈ·· ·/ also **pool**— *n* a large usu. outdoor container filled with water, and used for swimming

swimming trunks /ˈ·· ·/ also **bathing suit, swim suit**— *n* [P] a piece of clothing, like very short or legless trousers, worn by men for swimming —compare SWIMMING COSTUME; see PAIR (USAGE)

swimsuit /ˈ··/ *n* a piece of clothing worn for swimming, either by a man or a woman; SWIMMING TRUNKS, a SWIMMING COSTUME, or a BIKINI

swim·wear /ˈswɪmweəʳ/ *n* [U] clothing suitable for swimming: *Swimwear sale now on!* (sign in a shop)

Swin·burne /ˈswɪnbɜːn‖-bɜːrn/, **Al·ger·non Charles** /ˈældʒənən tʃɑːlz‖-dʒər-, tʃɑːrlz/ (1837–1909) an English poet known for his Greek-style TRAGEDY *Atalanta in Calydon*

swin·dle[1] /ˈswɪndl/ *v* [T (**out of**)] to cheat (someone), esp. so as to get money illegally: *She swindled him out of his life savings.* (=took them by cheating) —**-dler** *n*

swindle[2] *n* an example of swindling: *a big tax swindle*

Swin·don /ˈswɪndən/ a town in Wiltshire, S England

swine /swaɪn/ *n* **1** (*pl.* **swine**) *old use or tech* a pig: *swine fever* **2** (*pl.* **swine** *or* **swines**) *sl* an extremely unpleasant person: *Leave her alone, you (filthy) swine!*

swine·herd /ˈswaɪnhɜːd‖-hɜːrd/ *n lit or old use* a man or boy who looks after pigs

swing[1] /swɪŋ/ *v* **swung** /swʌŋ/ **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move backwards and forwards or round and round from a fixed point above: *The sign was swinging in the wind. | The children were swinging on a rope. | The soldiers marched along, swinging their arms.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) move in a smooth curve: *A large black car swung into the drive. | She swung the car through the gates. | The heavy gate swung shut.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) move from one point to another by a movement through the air: *They swung (themselves) down from the top of the wall. | The cranes swing the big crates onto the ship.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) turn quickly round: *He swung round and said "Why are you following me?"* | (fig.) *This will swing public opinion against the government.* **5** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk rapidly and actively with light steps: *He went swinging down/along the street whistling a little tune.* **6** [I] *infml* to play with a pleasant exciting beat: *That music/band really swings.* **7** [T] *infml* to arrange or complete successfully, often by slightly dishonest means: *I'll see if I can* **swing it** *for my wife to come with me on that business trip. | to swing a business deal* **8** [I (**for**)] *old-fash infml* to be killed by hanging by the neck, as a punishment: *He'll swing for this!* **9 swing the lead** /led/ *BrE infml derog* to avoid doing one's work or duty, esp. by pretending to be ill

swing[2] *n* **1** [C] a swinging movement: *He* **took a swing at** *the tree with his axe.* **2** [C] (in GOLF) the swinging movement of the arms and body used when DRIVING (=hitting the ball): *I spent months correcting my swing.* **3** [C] (a ride on) a seat, esp. for children, which is fixed from above by ropes or chains and on which one can swing backwards and forwards: *The children are playing on the swings in the park.* **4** [C] a noticeable change, esp. from one opinion to another: *There has been a big swing in public opinion. | a swing of five per cent to/against the Socialists* **5** [S] (in music) a strong regular beat: *I like music that* **goes with a swing.** | (fig.) *The party was really going with a swing.* (=was enjoyable, lively, and successful) **6** [U] JAZZ music of the 1930s and 1940s with a strong regular beat, usu. played by a big band **7 get into the swing of (smthg)** to get used to doing something and get good at doing it or enjoy doing it: *It's difficult work, but once you get into the swing of it, you'll find you can do it quickly.* **8 in full swing** having reached a very active stage: *The party was in full swing when the police burst in.* **9 what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts** (often shortened to **swings and roundabouts**) *infml, BrE* the disadvantages of a particular situation or course of action are balanced by the advantages: *It's a bit of a swings and roundabouts situation.*

swing door /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a door which can be pushed open from inside or out and which swings backwards and forwards after use

swinge·ing /ˈswɪndʒɪŋ/ *adj BrE* (esp. of arrangements

concerning money) very severe in force, degree, etc.: *The government has announced* **swingeing cuts** (=reductions) *in public spending.*

swing·er /ˈswɪŋəʳ/ *n infml, becoming old-fash* **1** a lively fashionable person who leads an active social life, esp. going to a lot of parties, NIGHTCLUBS, etc. **2** someone who behaves in a sexually free way

swing·ing /ˈswɪŋɪŋ/ *adj infml* **1** full of life and fun: *a swinging party* **2** fashionably free and modern, esp. in sex life: *the swinging sixties*

swinging six·ties /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*+P] the years 1960–69 in Britain and the US, esp. in the sense of the freedom young people felt to have sex, wear unusual clothes, and discuss new ideas

Swing Low, Sweet Char·i·ot /· ˌ· · ˈ···/ an American religious song (SPIRITUAL) that used to be sung by people working in the fields

swing·om·e·ter /swɪŋˈɒmɨtəʳ‖-ˈɑːm-/ *n BrE infml* a DEVICE made from a pointer and a DIAL, which is used on television during elections to show the changing support for a political party: *The swingometer shows a ten per cent swing to the Liberal Democrats.*

swing set /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a large frame which holds several SWINGS[2] (2) and sometimes a SLIDE, often built on children's playgrounds, and sometimes in a family garden

swing-wing /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] (of an aircraft) having wings that can be swung forwards for low speeds and backwards for high speeds

swin·ish /ˈswaɪnɪʃ/ *adj* extremely unpleasant or difficult to deal with: *a swinish person|problem | swinish behaviour* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

swipe[1] /swaɪp/ *n* **1** a forceful sweeping stroke or blow: *She made a swipe at the mosquito.* **2** an attack in words: *In her latest article, she* **takes a swipe at** *the fashionable critics.* –compare SIDESWIPE

swipe[2] *v* **1** [I (**at**);T] to (try to) hit hard, esp. with an uncontrolled swing of the arm: *She swiped at his head, but he got out of the way.* **2** [T] *infml* to steal: *Who's swiped my pen?*

swirl[1] /swɜːl‖swɜːrl/ *v* [I+*adv|prep*;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to move quickly with twisting turns: *The water swirled about his feet|swirled down the plughole. | The leaves were swirled away on the wind.*

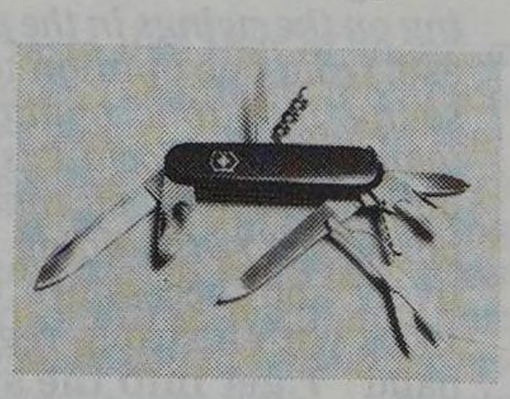
swirl[2] *n* **1** a swirling movement: *She danced with a swirl of her skirt.* **2** [(**of**)] a twisting mass (of water, dust, etc.); EDDY: *Swirls of smoke rose through the trees.*

swish[1] /swɪʃ/ *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*;T] to (cause to) move quickly through the air making a sharp whistling noise: *The whip swished through the air. | The cow swished its tail.* **2** [I] (esp. of clothes) to make a soft sound in movement: *Her silk dress swished as she passed.* –**swish** *n*: *The horse gave a swish of its tail.*

swish[2] *adj infml* fashionable and expensive: *a very swish restaurant*

Swiss /swɪs/ *adj* of or from Switzerland

Swiss ar·my knife /ˌ· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a small knife with usu. two blades and several other tools which fold into the handle, such as a can opener, a bottle opener, etc. –compare PEN KNIFE



Swiss army knife

Swiss chard /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] CHARD

Swiss cheese /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] any hard pale yellow or white cheese with holes, such as Emmentaler or Gruyère

Swiss Fam·i·ly Rob·in·son /ˌ· ··· ˈ···/, **The** a book for children written in 1813 by the Swiss writer Johann Wyss about a family on a desert island

Swiss Guard /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*+P] the group of men who work as bodyguards in the Vatican

swiss roll /ˌ· ˈ·/ ‖ also **jelly roll** *AmE*– *n* [C;U] a cake baked in a thin piece and then rolled up with a sweet substance (JAM or cream) inside

swiss steak /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* a piece of BEEF cooked in tomatoes (TOMATO)

switch[1] /swɪtʃ/ *n* **1** an apparatus for stopping or starting the flow of an electric current, esp. one which is moved up or down with the hand: *a light switch* **2** a complete, esp. unexpected, change: *There's been a switch in our plans.* **3** a small thin stick: *a hazel switch*

switch[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*;T] to change or exchange, esp. completely or unexpectedly: *The wind has switched round from north to east. | He got tired of teaching and switched to writing stories. | Let's switch positions. | Wait until the lights have switched to green. | to switch one's allegiance* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to change or move by a switch: *Switch the freezer to the extra cold setting.* –~**able** *adj*

switch off *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**switch** sthg. ↔ **off**)] to turn (an electric light or apparatus) off by means of a switch: *Switch off when you've finished using the electric typewriter. | Switch the television off.* –see OPEN (USAGE) **2** [I] *infml* to stop listening or paying attention: *He just switches off when you try to talk to him.*

switch on *phr v* [I;T (=**switch** sthg. ↔ **on**)] to turn (an electric light or apparatus) on by means of a switch: *"It doesn't work." "Have you switched (it) on?"* –see also SWITCHED-ON; see OPEN (USAGE)

switch over *phr v* **1** [I+*prep*] to change completely: *She switched over from supporting the Republicans to supporting the Democrats.* **2** [I;T (=**switch** sthg. ↔ **over**)] *esp. BrE* to change from one radio or television station to another: *I'm tired of this programme; switch (it) over to the other channel.*

Switch *n* [U] (in Britain) a system which means that people can pay for goods with a plastic card instead of using a cheque book, and the money is taken out of their bank account: *"Do you take Switch?" | a Switch card* –see also DEBIT CARD

switch·back /ˈswɪtʃbæk/ *n* a road or track going up and down steep slopes and round sharp bends, such as a mountain road or a railway for amusement at a FAIR[3] (1)

switch·blade /ˈswɪtʃbleɪd/ *n AmE for* FLICK KNIFE

switch·board /ˈswɪtʃbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* (the people who control) a central apparatus at which telephone lines are connected and disconnected, for example in an office building: *If you want an outside line, you'll have to ask the switchboard. | Angry callers* **jammed the switchboard** *at the White House.* (=because so many people were telephoning at the same time) –compare TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

switched-on /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml, becoming old-fash* quick to notice or become conscious of new ideas, opinions, fashions, etc.

switch·es /ˈswɪtʃɨz/ n [P] *AmE for* POINTS (1)

switch·gear /ˈswɪtʃgɪəʳ/ *n* [U] equipment for making electrical connections in a system

Swith·in , Swithun /ˈswɪðɨn/, **Saint** see SAINT SWITHIN'S DAY

Swit·zer·land /ˈswɪtsələnd‖-sər-/ a country in W Europe; capital Bern; population 6,647,000 (1989). It is known for having remained NEUTRAL in the two world wars, and being the base of international groups such as the Red Cross. It is also a world centre for banking and the management of money and famous for its chocolate and its cheese, and for making clocks and watches.

swiv·el[1] /ˈswɪvəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I;T (ROUND)] to turn (quickly) round (as if) on a central point: *She swivelled round in her chair as I came in.*

swivel[2] *n* an apparatus joining two parts in such a way that they can turn independently: *a swivel chair* (=a chair that turns) –see picture at CHAIR

swiz , swizz /swɪz/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* something that makes one feel cheated or disappointed

swiz·zle stick /ˈswɪzəl ˌstɪk/ *n* a stick or glass rod for mixing drinks

swol·len[1] /ˈswəʊlən/ *past participle of* SWELL[1]

swollen[2] *adj* increased beyond the usual size, often because of the presence of water or air inside, which is not usually present: *Her foot was very swollen after her accident. | The swollen river burst its banks.*

swollen head /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **big head** *AmE*– *n* [S] too great a sense of one's own importance: *If you keep telling him how clever he is, he'll get a swollen head.* –~**ed** /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj*

swoon[1] /swuːn/ *v* [I] **1** *lit or humor* to experience deep effects of joy, desire, etc., as if fainting (FAINT[2]) usu. said

of women: *The young girls swooned when they saw their favourite pop singer.* **2** *esp. old use* to lose consciousness; FAINT[2]

swoon[2] *n esp. old use* a FAINT[3]: *He fell down in a swoon from sheer hunger.*

swoop[1] /swuːp/ *v* [I] **1** to move down suddenly and steeply, esp. to attack: *The hawk swooped (down) and seized the rabbit.* **2** [(**on**)] *infml* to make a sudden surprise attack: *The police swooped as the gang came out of the bank.*

swoop[2] *n* a swooping action or movement: *"Police arrest five in dawn drugs swoop."* (title of newspaper story) —see also **at one fell swoop** (FELL[4])

swoosh /swuːʃ/ *v, n* SWISH[1] (1)

swop /swɒp‖swɑːp/ *v, n* SWAP

sword /sɔːd‖sɔːrd/ *n* **1** a weapon with a long sharp metal blade and a handle, used in former times **2 put to the sword** *old use or lit* to kill with a sword: *All the villagers were mercilessly put to the sword.* **3 they that live by the sword shall perish by the sword** *saying from the Bible* people who use violence to achieve things will be defeated finally by violence

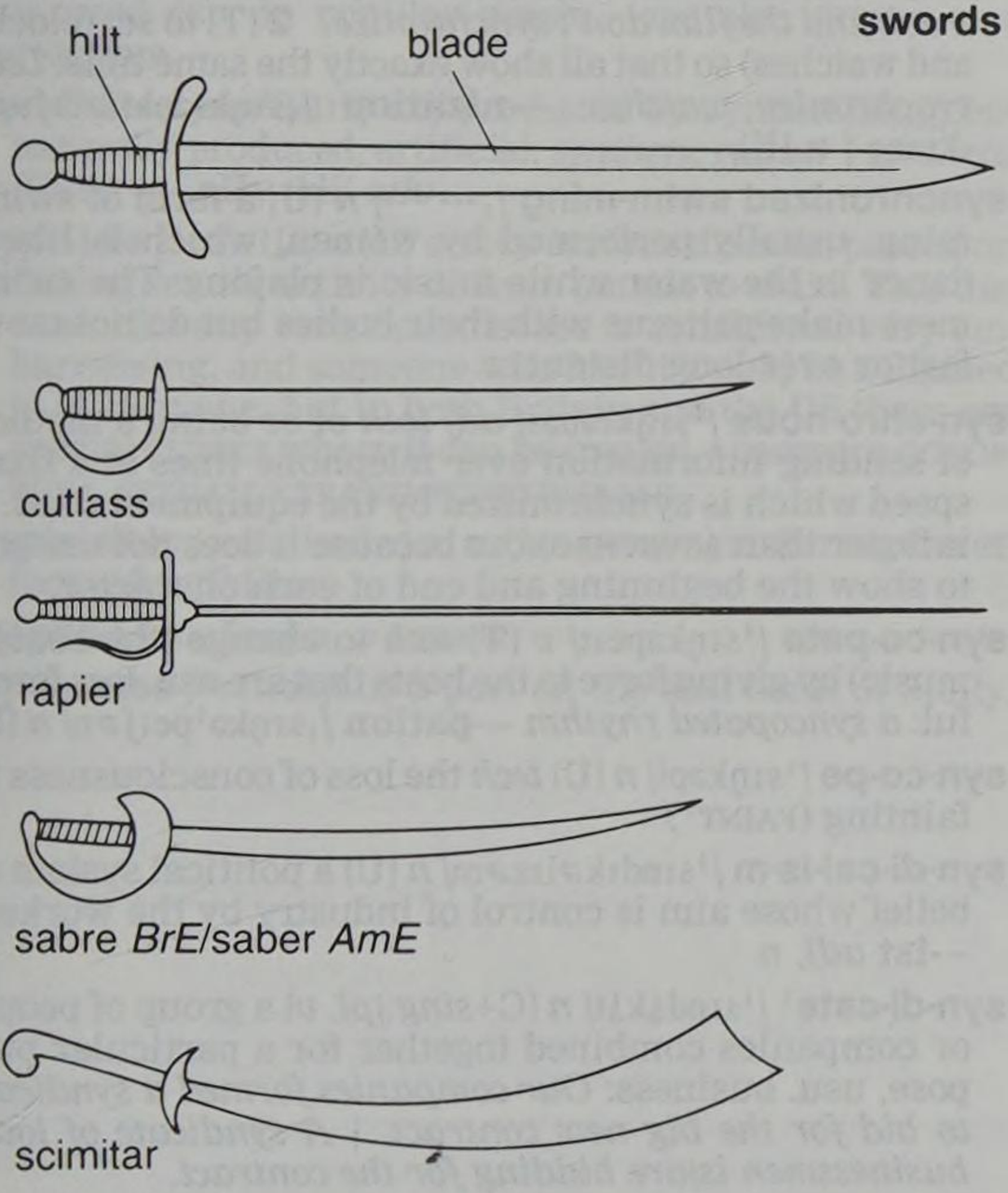
sword dance /ˈ· ·/ *n* a Scottish dance which includes jumping over swords laid on the ground —**sword dancer** *n*

sword·fish /ˈsɔːdˌfɪʃ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* **swordfish** *or* **swordfishes** a large fish with a long pointed upper jaw like a sword

sword in the stone /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ [*the*] according to old stories, the sword called Excalibur which was stuck in a stone and which would make the person who pulled it out King of England —see ARTHURIAN LEGEND

sword of Dam·o·cles /ˌsɔːd əv ˈdæməkliːz‖ˌsɔːrd-/ *n* **swords of Damocles** something bad that may happen at any time (from an ancient Greek story in which a king seats Damocles under a sword that hangs from a single hair to show him that rulers have their fears and worries as well as their power and happiness): *The possibility of another illness hung over his happiness like a sword of Damocles.*

swords



sword·play /ˈsɔːdpleɪ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U] the movement and skill used in fighting with swords

swords·man /ˈsɔːdzmən‖-ɔːr-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a (skilled) fighter with a sword

swords·man·ship /ˈsɔːdzmənʃɪp‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U] skill in fighting with a sword

swore /swɔːʳ/ *past tense of* SWEAR

sworn[1] /swɔːn‖swɔːrn/ *past participle of* SWEAR

sworn[2] *adj* [A] complete and with no possibility of changing: *They are* **sworn enemies.**

swot[1] /swɒt‖swɑːt/ *BrE* ‖ **grind** *AmE— n infml derog* someone who works (too) hard at their studies, esp. when trying to get good examination results, and seems to have no other interests

swot[2] *v BrE* ‖ **cram** *AmE— -tt-* [I] *infml* to study hard

swot sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *BrE infml* to work hard in order to learn (a subject one is studying), usu. before an examination: *She's swotting up her French irregular verbs.*

swum /swʌm/ *past participle of* SWIM[1]

swung /swʌŋ/ *past tense & participle of* SWING[1]

syb·a·rite /ˈsɪbəraɪt/ *n fml or lit* a person who lives a life of pleasure in extremely comfortable surroundings

syb·a·rit·ic /ˌsɪbəˈrɪtɪk◂/ *adj fml or lit* of or like a sybarite: *She found happiness, and a sybaritic new life in the sun.*

syc·a·more /ˈsɪkəmɔːʳ/ *n* **1** a European tree with fairly large five-pointed leaves and seeds that float to the ground on wing-like parts **2** an American PLANE TREE

syc·o·phant /ˈsɪkəfənt/ *n fml derog* a person who FLATTERS (=praises insincerely) those in positions of power in order to gain personal advantage: *The President surrounded himself with sycophants.* —**~ic** /ˌsɪkəˈfæntɪk◂/ *adj* : *"Of course, you're absolutely right", he said with a sycophantic smile.*

Syd·ney /ˈsɪdni/ the largest city in Australia, known for its bridge and OPERA house

Syd·ow /ˈsɪdəʊ/, **Max von** /mæks vɒn‖-vɑːn/ (1929–) a Swedish actor who often worked with the director Ingmar Bergman. His films include *The Exorcist* and *Hannah and her Sisters.*

Sykes /saɪks/, **Er·ic** /ˈerɪk/ (1923–) an English actor known for his funny films and television work, esp. with Hattie Jacques

syl·lab·ic /sɪˈlæbɪk/ *adj tech* having or forming one or more syllables: *"N" is a syllabic consonant in "button".*

syl·la·ble /ˈsɪləbəl/ *n* a word or part of a word which contains a vowel sound or a consonant acting as a vowel: *There are two syllables in "window": "win-" and "-dow".*

syl·la·bub sil- /ˈsɪləbʌb/ *n* [C;U] a dish made of sweetened cream or milk mixed with wine and usu. egg whites

syl·la·bus /ˈsɪləbəs/ *n* **-buses** *or* **-bi** /baɪ/ an arrangement of subjects for study over a period of time, esp. a course of studies leading to an examination: *I see "Hamlet" is on this year's syllabus for the English literature exam.* —compare CURRICULUM

syl·lo·gis·m /ˈsɪlədʒɪzəm/ *n tech* (in LOGIC) a reasoned argument in which there are two statements which must lead to a third statement (as in "all men will one day die; Socrates is a man; therefore one day Socrates will die") —**-gistic** /ˌsɪləˈdʒɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

sylph /sɪlf/ *n* **1** a graceful SLENDER woman or girl **2** according to old stories, a spirit of the air —compare NYMPH

sylph·like /ˈsɪlf-laɪk/ *adj esp. lit or humor* (of a woman or her body) attractively thin and graceful: *her sylphlike figure*

syl·van , sil- /ˈsɪlvən/ *adj* [A] *lit or poet* of or in woods and the country: *a sylvan glade*

sym·bi·o·sis /ˌsɪmbiˈəʊsɪs‖-baɪ-, -bi-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* the condition of two different living things which depend on each other for certain advantages, often with one living on the other's body: *This bird lives in symbiosis with cattle; it picks insects from their skin to eat.* —**-otic** /-ˈɒtɪk◂‖-ˈɑːtɪk◂/ *adj* : *a symbiotic relationship*

symbol

some washing symbols

sym·bol /ˈsɪmbəl/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] something which represents

or suggests something else, such as an idea or quality: *In the picture the tree is the symbol of life and the snake the symbol of evil.* | *The flag of the occupying army was regarded by the people as a symbol of oppression.* | *The dove is a symbol of peace.* —compare EMBLEM **2** [(**for**)] a letter, sign, or figure which expresses a sound, operation, number, chemical substance, etc.: *"H_2O" is the symbol for water.* | *According to the symbol on the label, this sweater should be washed by hand.* | *We use phonetic symbols as a guide to pronunciation in this dictionary.*

sym·bol·ic /sɪm'bɒlɪk‖-'bɑː-/ also **sym·bol·i·cal** /-ɪkəl/— *adj* [(**of**)] of, being, or using a symbol: *a symbolic painting* | *The snake is symbolic of evil.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sym·bol·is·m /'sɪmbəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] the use of symbols, esp. in literature, painting, films, etc.: *a novel full of religious symbolism*

sym·bol·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'sɪmbəlaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to be a symbol of: *A wedding ring symbolizes the union of husband and wife.* **2** to represent by one or more symbols —**-ization** /ˌsɪmbəlaɪ'zeɪʃən‖-bələ-/ *n* [U]

sym·met·ri·cal /sɪ'metrɪkəl/ also **sym·met·ric** /sɪ'metrɪk/— *adj* having both sides exactly alike: *The human face is more or less symmetrical.* —opposite **asymmetric** —~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

sym·me·try /'sɪmɨtri/ *n* [U] **1** exact likeness in size, shape, form, etc., between the opposite sides of something — opposite **asymmetry** **2** an effect of pleasing balance: *We admired the symmetry of the building's design|of the painting.*

sym·pa·thet·ic /ˌsɪmpə'θetɪk◂/ *adj* **1** feeling or showing sympathy: *She was very sympathetic when my mother died.* **2** [F (**to, towards**)] showing (a willingness to give) agreement or approval: *They were quite sympathetic to our proposals.* | *They promised to give our suggestions a sympathetic hearing.* **3** pleasant; similar to what one likes or wants; CONGENIAL: *a sympathetic atmosphere at the party* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sympathetic ma·gic /ˌ···· '··/ *n* [U] magic in which an action performed in one place is thought to cause or influence a similar event in another place

sym·pa·thies /'sɪmpəθiz/ *n* [P] **1** feelings of support or loyalty: *Although I pity him, my sympathies lie|are with his family.* | *No one's quite certain where her political sympathies lie.* **2** a message of comfort in grief: *She sent her sympathies on the death of her friend's husband.*

sym·pa·thize also **-thise** *BrE* /'sɪmpəθaɪz/ *v* [I (**with**)] to feel or show sympathy or approval: *I know you feel angry, and I sympathize.* | *It's hard to sympathize with her political opinions.*

sym·pa·thiz·er /'sɪmpəθaɪzəʳ/ *n often derog* someone who shows sympathy with a person or a cause, esp. a political point of view: *He was suspected of being a Communist Party sympathizer.* | *a sympathizer of the women's rights movement*

sym·pa·thy /'sɪmpəθi/ *n* [U] **1** sensitivity to and understanding of the sufferings of other people, often expressed in a willingness to give help: *She squeezed his hand in sympathy.* | *I didn't get much sympathy from the doctor when I told him about my pains.* | *The documentary aroused public sympathy for victims of the disaster.* | *The president sent a message of sympathy|expressed his sympathy.* **2** agreement with or understanding of the feelings or thoughts of other people: *I have a lot of sympathy for what they're trying to do.* | *I am* **in sympathy with** *her aims, but I don't like the way she goes about achieving them.* **3** active support of other workers: *The dock workers have* **come out in sympathy** *(with the miners)* (=stopped work as a sign of support for them); *it's a sympathy strike.* —compare EMPATHY; see also **tea and sympathy** (TEA (7))

sympathy card /'··· ˌ·/ *n* a card expressing sympathy, sent to someone a member of whose family has just died

sym·pho·ny /'sɪmfəni/ *n* a piece of music for an ORCHESTRA (=a large group of instruments), usu. having four main parts (=MOVEMENTS) —**-nic** /ˌsɪm'fɒnɪk‖-'fɑːn-/ *adj*

symphony or·ches·tra /'··· ˌ···/ *n* a large ORCHESTRA (=large group of musical instruments) which performs symphonies and other similar musical works

sym·po·si·um /sɪm'pəʊziəm/ *n* **-siums** *or* **-sia** /ziə/ *fml* a meeting between scientists or other people experienced in a particular subject, in order to talk about a certain area of interest

symp·tom /'sɪmptəm/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** an outward or noticeable sign of disease: *The symptoms don't appear until a few days after you're infected.* | *Yellow skin is a symptom of jaundice.* **2** an outward sign of a usu. bad or undesirable condition or event: *The lower production levels are a symptom of widespread dissatisfaction among the workforce.* | *He recognizes the symptoms, but refuses to admit that he has marital problems.* —see also WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

symp·to·mat·ic /ˌsɪmptə'mætɪk◂/ *adj* [(**of**)] being a sign of a particular esp. bad condition: *Their refusal to take part in the inquiry is symptomatic of their distrust of the police.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

syn·a·gogue /'sɪnəgɒg‖-gɑːg/ *n* a building where Jews meet for religious worship

sync, synch /sɪŋk/ *n* [U] *infml* a correct working arrangement; synchronization: *The film and its soundtrack are* **out of sync.** (=not going properly together)

syn·chro·mesh /'sɪŋkrəʊmeʃ/ *n* [U] a part of the GEARS in a car which allows them to change smoothly

syn·chro·ni·ci·ty /ˌsɪŋkrə'nɪsɨti/ *n* (an example of) the happening at the same place, time, or period of time, of two or more events which are similar or related

▷USAGE Unlike COINCIDENCE, SYNCHRONICITY is only used when the speaker believes that there is or may be some connection between the two events besides chance, such as God, FATE, or some other PSYCHIC force (=which cannot be explained by science): *Some people study the synchronicities between planetary changes and major changes in the world's problems.* | *the synchronicity of changes in animal behaviour before earthquakes*◁

syn·chro·nize ‖ also **-nise** *BrE* /'sɪŋkrənaɪz/ *v fml* **1** [I;T (**with**)] to (cause to) happen at the same time or the same speed: *You have to synchronize the soundtrack with the film.* (=make the sound fit the pictures) | *The soundtrack and the film don't synchronize.* **2** [T] to set (clocks and watches) so that all show exactly the same time: *Let's synchronize watches.* —**-nization** /ˌsɪŋkrənaɪ'zeɪʃən‖-krənə-/ *n* [U]

synchronized swim·ming /ˌ··· '··/ *n* [U] a form of swimming, usually performed by women, which is like a dance in the water while music is playing. The swimmers make patterns with their bodies but do not move fast or over long distances.

syn·chro·nous /'sɪŋkrənəs/ *adj tech* of or being a method of sending information over telephone lines at a fixed speed which is synchronized by the equipment used. It is faster than ASYNCHRONOUS because it does not use BITS to show the beginning and end of each character.

syn·co·pate /'sɪŋkəpeɪt/ *v* [T] *tech* to change (the beat of music) by giving force to the beats that are usu. less forceful: *a syncopated rhythm* —**-pation** /ˌsɪŋkə'peɪʃən/ *n* [U]

syn·co·pe /'sɪŋkəpi/ *n* [U] *tech* the loss of consciousness in fainting (FAINT[2])

syn·di·cal·is·m /'sɪndɪkəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] a political system or belief whose aim is control of industry by the workers —**-ist** *adj, n*

syn·di·cate[1] /'sɪndɨkɨt/ *n* [C+*sing.|pl. v*] a group of people or companies combined together for a particular purpose, usu. business: *Our companies formed a syndicate to bid for the big new contract.* | *A syndicate of local businessmen is|are bidding for the contract.*

syn·di·cate[2] /'sɪndɨkeɪt/ *v* **1** [T] to arrange for (written work, photographs, etc.) to be sold to a number of different newspapers, magazines, etc.: *His column is syndicated throughout America.* **2** [I;T] to form into a syndicate —**-cation** /ˌsɪndɨ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

syn·drome /'sɪndrəʊm/ *n* **1** *tech* a set of medical SYMPTOMS which represent a physical or MENTAL disorder —see also DOWN'S SYNDROME **2** *infml* a pattern of qualities, events, etc., typical of a general condition: *Their lifestyle is typical of the bored middle-aged housewife syndrome.*

Synge /sɪŋ/, **J M** (1871–1909) an Irish writer famous for his plays such as *The Playboy of the Western World*

syn·od /'sɪnəd/ *n* an important meeting of church members to make decisions on church matters (esp. in the Christian church)

syn·o·nym /ˈsɪnənɪm/ *n* a word with the same meaning or nearly the same meaning as another word in the same language: *"Sad" and "unhappy" are synonyms.* –compare ANTONYM

sy·non·y·mous /sɪˈnɒnɪməs‖-ˈnɑː-/ *adj* [(**with**)] having the same meaning or nearly the same meaning (as): *"Sad" and "unhappy" are synonymous.* | *"Sad" is synonymous with "unhappy".* | (fig.) *She seems to think that being poor is synonymous with being lazy.* –~**ly** *adv*

sy·nop·sis /sɪˈnɒpsɪs‖-ˈnɑːp-/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ [(**of**)] a short account of something longer, such as the story of a film, play, or book; SUMMARY

sy·nop·tic gos·pels /sɪˌnɒptɪk ˈgɒspəlz‖-ˌnɑːptɪk ˈgɑː-/ *n* [*the*+P] (*usu. cap.*) the accounts of Christ's life written by Matthew, Mark, and Luke (but not John), which all tell the same story in a similar way

syn·tac·tic /sɪnˈtæktɪk/ *adj* concerning or obeying the rules of syntax –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*: *"Be" and "become" are often used in the same way syntactically.*

syn·tax /ˈsɪntæks/ *n* [U] **1** the rules of grammar which are used for ordering and connecting words to form phrases or sentences **2** the rules which describe how words and phrases are used in a computer language –compare MORPHOLOGY

syn·the·sis /ˈsɪnθəsɪs/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ [(**of**)] **1** [U] the combining of separate things, ideas, etc., into a complete whole: *the synthesis of rubber from petroleum* –compare ANALYSIS **2** [C] something, such as a substance or an idea, made by combining various parts: *Their beliefs are a synthesis of Eastern and Western religions.*

syn·the·size also **-sise** *BrE* /ˈsɪnθəsaɪz/ *v* [T] to make up or produce by combining parts, esp. to make (something similar to a natural product) by combining chemicals: *to synthesize a drug* –compare ANALYSE

syn·the·siz·er also **-siser** *BrE* /ˈsɪnθəsaɪzəʳ/ *n* an electrical instrument that can produce many different sorts of sound, such as those of various musical instruments, which is usu. played with a KEYBOARD, like a piano, and is used esp. in popular music –see also SPEECH SYNTHESIZER

syn·thet·ic /sɪnˈθetɪk/ *adj* produced by synthesizing; not naturally produced; artificial: *synthetic rubber* | *synthetic fibres* –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

syph·i·lis /ˈsɪfəlɪs/ *n* [U] a very serious disease, passed on during sexual activity or from parent to child. This disease, like any VENEREAL disease is considered very embarrassing, and someone who had it would be ashamed to tell anyone; but in both Britain and the US there are special CLINICS where it can be treated –compare GONORRHEA, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

syph·i·lit·ic /ˌsɪfəˈlɪtɪk◂/ *n, adj* (a person) suffering the effects of syphilis

sy·phon /ˈsaɪfən/ *n, v* SIPHON

Sy·ra·cuse /ˈsaɪrəkjuːz/ a port on the east coast of Sicily, in Italy, a centre of Greek life in the eighth century BC

Syr·i·a /ˈsɪriə/ a country in the Middle East bordering on Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon; population 11,719,000 (1989) –**Syrian** *adj,n*

sy·ringe[1] /sɪˈrɪndʒ/ *n* an instrument used esp. in science and medicine, which consists of a hollow tube into which liquid can be sucked and from which it can be pushed out, esp. through a needle, to put drugs into the body –see also HYPODERMIC

syringe[2] *v* [T] to clean with a syringe: *She had to have her ears syringed.*

syr·up /ˈsɪrəp‖ˈsɜː-, ˈsɪ-/ *n* [U] **1** sweet liquid, esp. sugar and water: *tinned peaches in syrup* **2** a very thick sticky pale liquid made from sugar: *golden syrup* | *maple syrup* –see also CORN SYRUP **3** medicine in the form of a thick sweet liquid: *cough syrup* | *syrup of figs*

syr·up·y /ˈsɪrəpi‖ˈsɜː-, ˈsɪ-/ *adj* **1** like or containing syrup **2** *derog* too sweet, nice, kind, etc.: *a syrupy romantic novel*

sys·tem /ˈsɪstəm/ *n* **1** [C] a group of related parts which work together forming a whole: *A strike disrupted the postal system.* | *a heating/air-conditioning system* | *the solar system* | *a computer system* | *the digestive system* | *the nervous system* **2** [C (**of, for**)] an ordered set of ideas, methods, or ways of working: *What are the differences between the American and British systems of government?* | *She has a special system for winning money on horse races.* **3** [U] the use of orderly methods: *You need some system in your work if you want to succeed.* **4** [C] the body, thought of as a set of working parts: *All this idleness and overeating must be bad for the system/your system.* **5** [C] the workings of a computer or set of computers: *a fault in the system* | *systems design* –see also OPERATING SYSTEM **6** [*the*+S] *infml* the impersonal official forces that seem to govern one's life and limit one's freedom: *She just blames it all on the system.*

sys·te·mat·ic /ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk◂/ *adj often apprec* based on orderly methods and careful organization; thorough: *The way he works isn't very systematic.* | *The police made a systematic search of the building.* –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

sys·te·ma·tize ‖ also **-tise** *BrE* /ˈsɪstəmətaɪz/ *v* [T] to arrange in a system or by a set method –**-tization** /ˌsɪstəmətaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-mətə-/ *n* [U]

sys·te·mic /sɪsˈtemɪk, -ˈtiːmɪk‖sɪsˈtemɪk/ *adj tech* having an effect on the whole of something, esp. a living thing: *systemic drugs* | *Systemic insecticides spread all through a plant and kill any insects that feed on it.*

systems a·nal·y·sis /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the process of examining a system or activity to see whether it can be improved or carried out more effectively, esp. using computers to do this

systems an·a·lyst /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* someone who studies activities, such as business or industrial operations, and uses computers to plan ways of carrying them out, improving them, etc.

T

T , t /tiː/ **T's, t's** *or* **Ts, ts** **1** the 20th letter of the English alphabet **2 to a T** *infml* exactly; perfectly: *That dress fits Jean to a T.* —see also T-BONE, T-SHIRT, **cross one's "t's" and dot one's "i's"** (CROSS[2])

't /t/ *old use or poet* it (in the words **'tis**, **'twas**, **'twere**, **'twill**, **'twould**): *'Twas* (=it was) *a chill winter's day.*

ta /tɑː/ *interj BrE sl* thank you

TA /ˌtiː ˈeɪ/ [*the*] TERRITORIAL ARMY

tab /tæb/ *n* **1** a small piece or narrow length of cloth, paper, etc., fixed to something to help in opening or handling it, or to show what it is, who owns it, etc.: *You open the can by pulling the metal tab.* **2** *infml* a bill, esp. for a meal or drinks; the whole cost of something: *Don't expect me always to* **pick up the tab.** (=pay the bill) **3 keep tabs/a tab on** *infml* to watch closely (esp. someone who is believed to have bad or criminal intentions): *The police have been keeping tabs on him.*

ta·bas·co /təˈbæskəʊ/ also **tabasco sauce** /ˌ··ˈ·/— *n* [U] *tdmk* a very hot-tasting red SAUCE made from peppers, used for giving a special taste to food

tab·bou·leh /tæˈbuːleɪ‖təˈbuːlə/ *n* [U] a SALAD dish from the Middle East, made from cracked wheat, vegetables, oil, and HERBS

tab·by /ˈtæbi/ *n* **1** a cat with usu. dark bands and marks on its grey or brown fur, or orange bands on light fur: *grey tabby | orange tabby* **2** *rare* a female cat —compare TOMCAT

tab·er·nac·le /ˈtæbənækəl‖-bər-/ *n* **1** a movable tent-like structure used in worship by the Jews in ancient times **2** a building of worship in certain Christian churches: *the Baptist Tabernacle* **3** a small decorated box in which the holy bread and wine are kept in Roman Catholic churches

ta·ble[1] /ˈteɪbəl/ *n* **1** [C] a piece of furniture with a flat top supported by one or more upright legs: *a kitchen table | a card table* (=for playing cards on) *| a table lamp* (=made to be placed on a table) *| a table knife* (=for eating with) *| I've booked a table for two at the restaurant. | new efforts to get them back to* **the negotiating table** (=where opponents can talk about their disagreements) —see also COFFEE TABLE, HIGH TABLE **2** [C+*sing./pl. v*] the people sitting at a table: *John's clever stories kept the whole table amused.* **3** [S] *esp. old-fash or pomp* the stated kind or quality of food served at a meal: *Cyril keeps an excellent table.* (=serves very good meals) *| I always choose something from the* **cold table** *in restaurants.* (=from the cold meat or vegetable dishes) **4** [C] a printed or written set of figures, facts, or information arranged in orderly rows across and down the page: *There is a table of contents at the front of this dictionary.* **5** [C] also **multiplication table**— a list which young children repeat to learn what number results when a number from 1 to 12 is multiplied by any of these numbers: *The three times table starts: once three is three, two threes are six, three threes are nine.* (1×3=3, 2×3=6, 3×3=9) **6 at table** *BrE fml or pomp* during a meal; having a meal: *It's bad manners to blow your nose at table.* **7 on the table: a** having been suggested or offered for consideration: *The management has put a reasonable wage offer on the table, so it's up to the unions to decide whether to accept it.* **b** *AmE* remaining to be talked about at a later time: *The proposal is still on the table.* **8 under the table** *infml* (of money) given in order to influence someone dishonestly: *They offered me £500 under the table if I would vote against the government's plans.* —see also **drink someone under the table** (DRINK[1]) **9 turn the tables (on someone)** to suddenly take a position of strength or advantage that was formerly held by someone else, and change from being weaker to being stronger: *She played badly in the first set, but then she turned the tables on her opponent and won the match.*

table[2] *v* [T] **1** *BrE* to suggest (a subject, report, etc.) for consideration by a committee, parliament, etc.: *The opposition has tabled an amendment to the bill.* **2** *esp. AmE* to leave (a subject, report, etc.) until a later date for consideration

tab·leau /ˈtæbləʊ‖ˈtæbləʊ, tæˈbləʊ/ *n* **-leaux** /ləʊz/ *or* **-leaus** a lifelike representation, on a stage, of a famous scene or historical event by a group of people who do not move or speak

ta·ble·cloth /ˈteɪbəlklɒθ‖-klɔːθ/ *n* a cloth for covering a table, esp. during a meal

ta·ble d'hôte /ˌtɑːbəl ˈdəʊt/ [*the*] *Fr* a complete meal of several dishes served at a fixed price in a hotel or restaurant: *I'll have the table d'hôte (dinner).* —compare A LA CARTE

ta·ble·land /ˈteɪbəl-lænd/ also **tablelands** *pl.*— *n* a large area of high flat land; a PLATEAU

table lin·en /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] tablecloths and NAPKINS

table man·ners /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [P] the way someone follows the customary rules and correct social behaviour when attending and eating a meal: *His table manners were atrocious.*

ta·ble·mat /ˈteɪbəlmæt/ *n* a small mat made of material that will not let heat pass, placed under hot dishes to protect a table's surface

ta·ble·spoon /ˈteɪbəlspuːn/ *n* **1** ‖*usu.* **serving spoon** *AmE*— a large spoon used for serving food —see picture at SPOON **2** *AmE* (a spoon which holds) a unit of measurement equal to 1/128 of a US pint of liquid **3** [**(of)**] also **ta·ble·spoon·ful** /ˈteɪbəlˌspuːnfʊl/(*pl.* **-spoonfuls, -spoonsful**)— the amount held by these

tab·let /ˈtæblɨt/ **1** a small round solid piece of medicine; a PILL: *The doctor told me to take two tablets before every meal. | sleeping tablets* —see picture at PILL **2** a small block (of soap) **3** a shaped flat piece of stone or metal with words cut into it: *Her memorial is carved on that stone tablet on the wall.* —see also TABLETS OF STONE

table ten·nis /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **ping-pong** *infml*— *n* [U] an indoor game played on a table by two or four players who use small BATS to hit a small hollow plastic ball to each other across a net

tablets of stone /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [P] **written in tablets of stone** stated or written in a very firm, definite way and not able to be changed

ta·ble·ware /ˈteɪbəlweəʳ/ *n* [U] the plates, glasses, knives, forks, spoons, etc., used when eating a meal

table wine /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] wine intended for drinking with a meal, esp. wine that is not very expensive

tab·loid /ˈtæblɔɪd/ *n* a newspaper of which two pages make up one printing PLATE[1] (7), and which contains many pictures, and short accounts of the main points of the news: *I never read the tabloids. The story is being dismissed as the irresponsible gossip of the tabloid press.* —compare QUALITY PAPER; see also extra information on page 896 —**tabloid** *adj*

ta·boo[1] /təˈbuː, tæˈbuː/ *adj* **1** strongly forbidden by social custom, esp. because offensive or likely to cause social discomfort: *There are certain rude words that are taboo in ordinary conversation. | Don't talk to her about her divorce — it's a* **taboo subject.** **2** [*no comp.*] *tech* too holy or evil to be touched, named, or used: *This land is the burial place of tribal chiefs and is therefore taboo.*

taboo[2] *n* **-boos** [C;U] (a) strong social or religious custom forbidding a particular act or word: *Is there a taboo against sex before marriage in your society?*

tab·u·lar /ˈtæbjʊlәʳ/ *adj* arranged in the form of a TABLE[1] (4): *The information is shown in tabular form.*

tab·u·la ra·sa /ˌtæbjʊlə ˈrɑːzə/ *n* **tabulae rasae** /-liː ˈrɑːziː/ *Lat* something, esp. the mind, existing in its original state, before anything has been added to change it

tab·u·late /ˈtæbjʊleɪt/ *v* [T] to arrange (facts, figures, etc.) in the form of a TABLE[1] (4) —**-lation** /ˌtæbjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

tach·o·graph /ˈtækəgrɑːf‖-græf/ *n* an apparatus for recording the speed of a vehicle, esp. a TRUCK, and the distance it has travelled

ta·chom·e·ter /tæˈkɒmɨtəʳ‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* (esp. in vehicles) an instrument used to measure speed, esp. the rate at which an engine turns

ta·cit /ˈtæsɨt/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] *fml* accepted or understood without actually being written down or openly expressed: *It is believed the management and the unions have reached a tacit agreement on the matter. | The deal had the tacit approval/backing of the President.* —**~ly** *adv*

ta·ci·turn /ˈtæsɨtɜːn‖-ɜːrn/ *adj fml* tending to speak very little; not liking to say a lot – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ity** /ˌtæsɨˈtɜːnɨti‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U]

tack[1] /tæk/ *n* **1** [C] a small nail with a sharp point and flat head: *He hammered a tack into the wall and hung a small picture from it.* **2** ‖ also **thumbtack** *AmE– infml* for DRAWING PIN **3** [C;U] the direction of a sailing ship as shown by the position of its sails: *Ships on starboard tack* (=with the wind coming from their right) *have right of way.* **4** [C] a course of action or thought, esp. one that is completely different from a previous one: *The speaker suddenly changed tack|started off on a different tack and left us all rather confused.* **5** [C] a long loose stitch used for fastening pieces of cloth together before sewing them properly –see also BRASS TACKS, HARD TACK, THUMBTACK

tack[2] *v* **1** [T] to fasten with a tack: *She tacked a notice to the board.* | *He tacked down the lid of the box.* **2** [I] to change the course of a sailing ship so that the wind blows against its sails from the opposite direction **3** [T] also **baste**– to fasten or join (cloth) with long loose stitches: *Tack the sleeves on, then sew them up.*

tack sthg. ↔ **on** *phr v* [T (**to**)] *infml* to add (esp. something that was not originally planned) to the end of a speech, book, etc.: *The bit about help for poorer countries had obviously just been tacked on as an afterthought.*

tack·le[1] /ˈtækəl/ *v* **1** [T] to take action in order to deal with: *What's the best way to tackle this problem?* | *new measures aimed at tackling unemployment* **2** [I;T] (in football or HOCKEY) to (try to) take the ball away, from (an opponent) **3** [I;T] (in RUGBY or American football) to force (the player with the ball) to the ground to prevent him from passing it or running with it: (fig.) *The robber tried to get away but a man ran and tackled him.* **4** [T] to speak to directly and fearlessly so as to deal with a problem: *If she keeps missing school like this you'll have to tackle her parents about it.*

tackle[2] *n* **1** [C] (in football or HOCKEY) an act of trying to take the ball from an opponent: *a strong|hard tackle* **2** [C] (in RUGBY of American football) an act of stopping the opponent carrying the ball by taking hold of him and bringing him down **3** (in American football) a player whose job is to tackle an opponent **4** [U] the equipment used in certain sports: *Don't forget to bring your* **fishing tackle.** (=rod, line, hooks, etc.) **5** [C;U] (a system of) ropes and wheels (PULLEYS) for working a ship's sails, lifting heavy weights, etc.

tack·y /ˈtæki/ *adj* **1** sticky: *The paint on the door is still tacky.* **2** *infml, esp. AmE* **a** of bad taste **b** cheap and with too much decoration; GAUDY **c** low-class –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

tac·o /ˈtækəʊ‖ˈtɑː-/ *n* **-cos** a type of Mexican food made from a TORTILLA (=flat bread made usu. of MAIZE or flour) folded in two to hold a filling, usu. of BEEF or chicken

Taco Bell /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a FAST-FOOD restaurant in the US which serves Mexican food

tact /tækt/ *n* [U] the ability to do or say the right thing at the right time; skill in dealing with people without causing offence or upsetting them: *It's a rather delicate situation and you'll need a lot of tact to handle it.* – ~**less** *adj*: *What a tactless remark!* – ~**lessly** *adv* – ~**lessness** *n* [U]

tact·ful /ˈtæktfəl/ *adj* showing tact; careful not to cause offence or upset people: *It was very tactful of you to leave when you did.* – ~**ly** *adv*: *I tactfully refrained from mentioning his argument with the boss.*

tac·tic /ˈtæktɪk/ *n* [*often pl.*] a plan or method that is intended to gain a desired result: *The general planned his tactics for the following day's battle.* | *In order to avoid taking immediate action, they used|adopted the classic* **delaying tactic** *of setting up a committee of inquiry.* – see also TACTICS

tac·tic·al /ˈtæktɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of tactics: *a general of great tactical skill* **2** done in order to get a desired result in the end: *This is purely a tactical withdrawal; when we have strengthened our forces we will attack again.* **3** (of weapons) for use only over short distances, close to the base of operations: *tactical nuclear missiles* – ~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

tactical vot·ing /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the practice of voting for a person or party (in an election) that one does not favour, in order to prevent the election of an even less favoured person who would otherwise win

tac·ti·cian /tækˈtɪʃən/ *n* a person skilled in tactics

tac·tics /ˈtæktɪks/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] the art of arranging military forces for battle and moving them during battle: *An army commander must be skilled in tactics.*

tac·tile /ˈtæktaɪl‖ˈtæktl/ *adj tech* of or able to be felt by the sense of touch: *the tactile organs* | *a tactile sensation*

tad·pole /ˈtædpəʊl/ *n* a small black creature with a long tail and round head that lives in water and grows into a FROG or TOAD

Ta·dzhi·ki·stan, Tajikistan /tɑːˌdʒiːkɪˈstɑːn/ one of the republics of the former USSR

tae kwon do /ˌtaɪ kwɒn ˈdəʊ‖-kwɑːn-/ *n* [U] an Oriental system of SELF defence, which is like KARATE, using kicking and punching (PUNCH[1] (1))

taf·fe·ta /ˈtæfɨtə/ *n* [U] thin shiny smooth stiff cloth made from silk, nylon, etc.

taf·fy /ˈtæfi/ *n esp. AmE* a soft sweet made by boiling usu. brown sugar and then pulling it until it is light in colour; **taffy pulls** used to be popular events in the "olden days", and **salt water taffy** is still popular in the US today, and comes in many light colours and FLAVOURS

Taffy *n BrE sl, sometimes derog* a Welshman

Taft /tæft/, **Lo·ra·do** /ləˈreɪdəʊ/ (1860–1936) an American SCULPTOR known for his FOUNTAINS

Taft, William Howard (1857–1930) an American Republican, president of the US from 1909 to 1913

tag[1] /tæg/ *n* **1** a small piece of paper, material, etc., fixed to something to show what it is, who owns it, what it costs, etc.: *a name tag* | *an identification tag* | (fig.) *a car with a $20,000 price tag* (=that costs $20,000) **2** a metal or plastic point at the end of a cord, SHOELACE, etc. **3** a well known phrase or sentence, esp. one in a foreign language: *His writing is always full of Latin tags.* **4** also **question tag**– a phrase such as "isn't it?", "won't it?", "does she?", etc., added to the end of a sentence to make it a question or ask for agreement

tag[2] *v* **-gg-** [T] **1** to fasten a tag to: *Tag the bottles now or we'll forget which one is which.* **2** [+*obj*+**as**|*n*] to regard or describe (someone) in a particular way: *Ever since she failed her exam she's been tagged as stupid|tagged a failure.*

tag along *phr v* [I] *infml* to go with someone by following closely behind: *The baby elephant was tagging along behind its mother.* | *Whenever we go out she always tags along, although no one ever invites her.*

tag sthg. ↔ **on** *phr v* [T] to fix or add to something; TACK **on**: *He decided to tag on an extra paragraph at the end summarizing what he'd said.*

tag[3] *n* [U] a children's game in which one player chases and tries to touch the others

Ta·ga·log /təˈgɑːlɒg‖-ləg/ *n* **1** [C] a member of a people living in the Philippines **2** [U] the language spoken by these people

ta·glia·tel·le /ˌtæljəˈteli ‖ tɑː-/ *n* [U] Italian PASTA (=food made from flour mixed with water) in the shape of long thin flat pieces, cooked in boiling water –compare MACARONI, SPAGHETTI, VERMICELLI

Ta·gore /təˈgɔːr/, **Ra·bin·dra·nath** /rəˈbɪndrənɑːθ/ (1861–1941) a Bengali Indian writer, one of the most influential Indian writers of the 20th century, known for *Gitanjali*, and *Chitra*, a play which he translated into English

ta·hi·ni /təˈhiːni/ also **-tahina** /-nə/– *n* [U] a thick substance made from ground (GRIND) SESAME seeds, used in Middle Eastern cookery, and esp. for making HUMMUS

Ta·hi·ti /təˈhiːti/ an island in French Polynesia, in the Pacific Ocean

Ta·hi·tian /təˈhiːʃən/ *n* **1** [C] someone who comes from or whose parents come from Tahiti **2** [U] the language spoken in Tahiti –**Tahitian** *adj*

tai chi, tai ji, t'ai chi /ˌtaɪ ˈtʃiː, -ˈdʒiː/ also **tai chi chuan** /ˌtaɪ tʃiː ˈtʃwɑːn, -dʒiː-/– (*sometimes caps.*) *n* [U] a Chinese form of physical exercise which involves moving the body very slowly, to train the body and mind in balance and control. It is esp. suitable for older people, and is practised in large groups in Chinese parks.

tail[1] /teɪl/ *n* **1** the movable long growth at the back or end of a creature's body: *a bird's tail* | *a fish's tail* | *The dog wagged his tail.* –see pictures at BIRD and HORSE

2 something like this in appearance, shape, or position: *a comet's tail | He wore a coat with tails.* (=a TAILCOAT) *| We saw the tail* (=back end) *of the procession disappearing round the bend. | I prefer to sit towards the tail of the plane.| (infml) I hate it when the driver behind* **sits on my tail.** (=follows my car too closely) —see picture at AIRCRAFT **3** *infml* a person employed to watch and follow someone, esp. a criminal: *The police have* **put a tail on** *me, so they know my every move.* **4 (a case of) the tail wagging the dog** (a case of) something unimportant causing important decisions to be made **5 with one's tail between one's legs** in a state of complete defeat **6 turn tail** to turn round defeated (and run away): *They fought for a few moments, then turned tail and fled.* **7 -tailed** /teɪld/having a tail of the stated sort: *a curly-tailed pig* —see also TAILS, **not be able to make head or tail of** (HEAD[1]) — **~less** *adj*

tail[2] *v* [T] *infml* to follow closely behind (someone) in order to watch what they do, where they go, etc.: *The police have been tailing me – they know I'm here.*

tail back *phr v* [I] *esp. BrE* to form a tailback: *The traffic was tailing back all the way to the city centre.*

tail off *phr v* [I] to lessen in quantity, strength, or quality: *The volume of traffic has begun to tail off.*

tail·back /ˈteɪlbæk/ *esp. BrE*‖usu. **back-up** *AmE*— *n esp. BrE* a still or slow-moving line of vehicles covering a certain distance on the road from where the traffic has been stopped, e.g. by an accident, road repairs, etc.: *A lorry has overturned on the M1, causing a three-mile tailback for southbound travellers.*

tail·board /ˈteɪlbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ ‖ also **tailgate** *esp. AmE*— *n* the board at the back of a cart or large vehicle that can be let down or removed to make loading and unloading easier

tail·coat /teɪlˈkəʊt, ˈteɪlkəʊt/ also **cutaway**— *n* a man's coat with a long back divided into two below the waist and a front part that does not come below the waist —see also TAILS

tail end /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [**(of)** *usu. sing.*] the very last part: *We just got there in time to see the tail end of the film.*

tail end·er /ˌteɪl ˈendəʳ/ *n* (in cricket) a relatively poor BATSMAN who comes in near the end of the team's INNINGS

tail·gate[1] /ˈteɪlgeɪt/ *n* **1** a TAILBOARD **2** the door at the back of a HATCHBACK car

tailgate *v* [I;T] *AmE infml* to drive (too) closely behind (a vehicle)

tail·light /ˈteɪl-laɪt/ *n* a red light at the back of a vehicle so that it can be seen in the dark —see picture at CAR

tai·lor[1] /ˈteɪləʳ/ *n* a person who makes clothes, esp. outer garments for men such as coats and suits —compare DRESSMAKER

tailor[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] to make (an outer garment) by cutting and sewing cloth, esp. to fit a particular person: *a beautifully tailored suit* | (fig.) *We can tailor the insurance policy to|according to your special needs.*

tailor-made /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [**(for)**] exactly suited to a special need, a particular person, etc.: *This job's tailor-made for John.*

tail·piece /ˈteɪlpiːs/ *n* a part added at the end; APPENDAGE: *He added a tailpiece describing what happened after the end of the war.*

tail pipe /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* EXHAUST[2] (1)

tails /teɪlz/ *n* **1** [U] the side of a coin which does not have the head of a king, queen, president, etc., on it: *I'll toss you for it* — **heads or tails?** —compare HEADS **2** [P] a formal evening TAILCOAT, usu. black and worn with a white BOW TIE: *For a formal occasion at the palace you must wear tails.* —compare DINNER JACKET, and see picture at EVENING DRESS

tail·spin /ˈteɪlˌspɪn/ *n* an uncontrolled spinning fall by a plane, in which the tail spins in a wider circle than the front

tail·wind /ˈteɪlˌwɪnd/ *n* a wind coming from behind

taint[1] /teɪnt/ *v* [T] **1** to cause to seem impure or undesirable, esp. by bringing into CONTACT with something bad or unpleasant: *His political reputation is tainted by his connection with an unpopular government.* **2** *esp. AmE* to make (food) unfit for use, esp. because of decay: *tainted meat*

taint[2] *n* [S **(of)**] a slight touch of decay, infection, or bad or immoral influence: *Can we be sure they are free from any taint of disloyalty?*

Tai·pei /ˌtaɪ ˈpeɪ/ the capital city of Taiwan

Tai·wan /ˌtaɪˈwɑːn/ an island off the SE coast of China; capital Taipei; population 19,900,000 (1988)

Tai·wan·ese /ˌtaɪwəˈniːz◂/ *n* [*the* +P] people from Taiwan —**Taiwanese** *adj*

Ta·ji·ki·stan /tɑːˌdʒiːkɪˈstɑːn/ a country in central Asia bordered by Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, China, and Afghanistan; capital Dushanbe; population 5,112,000 (1989)

Taj Ma·hal /ˌtɑːdʒ məˈhɑːl/ [*the*] a beautiful white building in Agra, N India, built as a burial place for the wife of the EMPEROR Shah Jehan

take[1] /teɪk/ *v* **took** /tʊk/, **taken** /ˈteɪkən/ ■ to move something from one place to another **1** [T] to move or carry from one place or position to another: *I often forget to take my umbrella. | Don't forget to take your bag when you go.* [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *We usually take the children to school in the car. | Take your feet off the table. | The arrested man was taken away in a police car. | That notice has been up for weeks – it's time it was taken down. | She's gone to the dentist to have a tooth taken out. | I don't want this chair – take it away. | The drug was found to be dangerous, and was taken off the market.* (=so that it could no longer be sold) *| What do you get if you take* (=subtract) *four from nine?* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Take your mother a cup of tea.* —see BRING (USAGE) **2** [T] to remove or use without permission or by mistake: *Someone's taken my pen. | The last bit of her book is taken straight from my article on the subject.* ■ to get something into one's possession **3** [T] to get possession or control of; seize; CAPTURE: *Enemy forces have taken the airport. | 500 prisoners were taken in the battle. | The general swore to take back the fort whatever the cost. | She took my bishop and I took her queen.* (=in CHESS) **4** [T] to get for oneself: *Take a seat. | She took second prize. | Why should he take all the credit when things go well? | to take control of the situation | We usually take* (=rent) *a cottage in the country in the summer. | She made a slow start in the race, but eventually* **took the lead.** (=got into the leading position) **5** [T] to get hold of (something) with the hands; GRASP: *She took my arm|took me by the arm and led me across the road. | He took her in his arms and kissed her. | Let me take your jacket. | She took a spade and planted the potatoes.* ■ to accept **6** [T *not in progressive forms*] to be willing to accept: *The shop will take it back if it doesn't fit. | Do they take traveller's cheques? | I don't see why I should take the blame for this.| That's my last offer – you can* **take it or leave it. 7** [T *not in progressive forms*] to accept as true or worthy of attention: *If you take my advice you'll sell that at once.| I can't prove I'm right – you'll just have to* **take my word for it.** *| What you've said doesn't change my position, but* **I take your point.** (=understand or accept your argument) **8** [T *not in progressive forms*] to accept or suffer as unavoidable: *The president has taken a lot of criticism over this. | The staff reluctantly agreed to take a cut in wages.* **9** [T *not in progressive forms*] to be able to hold or contain: *The tank will take about 12 gallons.| The bus takes up to 55 passengers. | I don't think this shelf will take any more books.* **10** [T *not in progressive forms*] to (be willing to) bear; ENDURE: *I can't take much more of his nagging. | I find her self-righteous manner rather* **hard to take.** ■ to need for a purpose **11** [T] to need (a stated amount of time): *The journey takes two hours.* (=you need two hours to make it) [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *The flight took us ten hours. | It took her all afternoon to finish it.* **12** [T] to need in order to work properly; accept: *The machine only takes 5-pence coins.* (=only works if you put 5-PENCE coins in it) *| The verb "kill" takes a direct object. | What sort of batteries does it take?* **13** [T] to need in order to gain a particular result: *That takes some believing.* (=is hard to believe) *| It took ten men to break the door down. | It takes a lot of nerve|courage to do a thing like that.* —see also **have what it takes** (TAKE[1] (29)), TAKE **up** ■ used without strong meaning with certain nouns, to show an action or feeling **14** [T] to perform the actions connected with: *I'm going to take* (=have) *a walk|a bath|a break. | Before giving evidence, you have to take* (=swear) *the oath. | When are you taking your driving test? | She's taking* (=studying) *history at university. | You have to be prepared to take risks in this job. | We will have to take steps to see that the rules are obeyed. | She didn't even take the trouble to phone me.* —see HAVE[3] (USAGE) **15** [T] to have

or experience (a certain feeling): *Why do you always take offence when I make suggestions?* | *He doesn't take much interest in his work.* | *They took pity on the refugees and allowed them to stay.* | *I'm inclined to take a more optimistic view* ■ other meanings **16** [T (IN, UP)] to introduce into the body by swallowing, eating, drinking, breathing, etc.: *The doctor gave me some medicine to take for my cold.* | *I opened the window and took a breath of fresh air.* | *Do you take sugar in your tea?* | *Plants take up water through their roots.* **17** [T] to use as a way of getting from one place to another: *My sister goes to work on the bus but takes the train coming home.* | *Take the second turning on the left.* **18** [T] to test or measure: *Nurse, take this man's temperature, please.* | *They're taking a sample of public opinion.* **19** [T] to make by photography: *I had my picture taken this morning.* **20** [T (DOWN)] to write down: *The policeman took (down) my name and address.* | *Will you take notes on the meeting, please?* **21** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*;*not in progressive forms*] to have the stated feelings as to; consider: *I always take your suggestions seriously.* | *I took your nod as a sign of approval*/*to mean that you approved.* | *Of course I didn't tell her your secret* – **what do you take me for?** (=what sort of person do you think I am?) | **I take it** (=I suppose) *you'll be making a complaint about her behaviour.* **22** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to separate into pieces: *He took the watch to bits*/*to pieces to mend it.* –see also TAKE **apart** **23** [T] to (attempt to) get over or round (something that prevents one's advance); NEGOTIATE (3): *The horse took that last fence well.* | *We took the bend at 90 miles an hour.* **24** [I] to have the intended effect; work successfully: *The colour took and her white dress is now red.* | *Did the vaccination take?* **25** [T *often pass.*] to attract; delight: *The little house took my fancy.* | *The child was really taken by the little dog.* | *I was quite taken with that young man.* **26** [I;T] (of a fish) to bite (the hook of a fisherman): *The fish don't seem to be taking today.* | (fig.) *He took the bait and fell into the swindler's trap.* **27** [T] *esp. lit* (of a male) to have sex with ■ fixed phrases **28 be taken sick/ill** to become ill, esp. suddenly **29 have what it takes** *infml* to have the qualities needed for success: *That girl's got what it takes to be a star.* **30 it takes all sorts (to make a world)** (a phrase said when one thinks someone is behaving rather strangely **31 take it from** ˈ**me** believe me when I say: *You can take it from me that there won't be an election this year.* –see also **take place** (PLACE¹) **32 you can't take it with you (when you go)** you will have no use for material possessions when you die ■ phrasal verbs

take after sbdy. *phr v* [T *not in progressive forms*] to look or behave like (an older relative): *Mary really takes after her mother; she has the same eyes, nose, and hair.*

take apart *phr v* [T] **1 (take** sthg.↔**apart)** to separate (a small machine, clock, etc.) into pieces; DISMANTLE: *Take the watch apart and see if you can see what's wrong with it.* –compare TAKE **down**; see also TAKE¹ (22) **2 (take** sbdy. **apart)** *infml* **a** to defeat very severely in a sport or game: *England were really taken apart by Italy in last night's match.* **b** to find serious fault with; speak angrily to or CRITICIZE severely

take away from sthg. *phr v* [T] to lessen the effect or value of (something good or desirable); DETRACT **from**: *His refusal to accept the prize does not take away from his success in winning it.*

take back *phr v* [T] **1 (take** sthg. ↔ **back)** to admit that one was wrong in (what one said): *I'm sorry I was rude; I take back everything I said.* **2 (take** sbdy. **back)** to cause to remember or think about a past time: *Seeing that old film really took me back!* –see also TAKE¹ (1,3,6)

take sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to separate (a large machine or article) into pieces, esp. in order to repair it or move it: *We'll have to take the engine down to get to the gearbox.* –compare TAKE **apart** **2** to lower (a garment worn below the waist) without actually removing it: *to take down one's trousers* –see also TAKE¹ (1,20)

take sbdy./sthg.↔**in** *phr v* [T] **1** to receive into one's home; provide lodgings for (a person): *He had nowhere to sleep so we offered to take him in.* **2** to include: *This is the total cost of the holiday, taking everything in.* | *When I go to New York for meetings, I usually take in a movie.* (=include it in the day's activities) **3** to make (clothes) narrower: *My dress is a bit loose round the waist – could you take it in for me?* –compare LET **out** (3) **4** to understand fully; GRASP: *It took me a long time to take in what you were saying.* **5** to deceive: *Don't be taken in by his promises.* –see also TAKE¹ (16)

take off *phr v* **1** [T] **(take** sthg.↔**off)** to remove (esp. clothes): *Take your coat off.* –opposite **put on** **2** [I] (of a plane, SPACECRAFT, etc.) to rise into the air at the beginning of a flight **3** [T] **(take** sbdy.↔**off)** *infml* to copy the speech or manners of (someone), esp. for amusement; MIMIC: *The actor made everyone laugh by taking off the members of the royal family.* **4** [T] **(take** sthg. **off)** to have a holiday from work on (the stated day) or for (the stated period): *I'm taking Thursday off because I'm moving house.* | *Take a few days off, Michael.* **5** [I] begin to become successful, popular, or well-known: *It was at this point that her acting career really took off.* **6** [I] *infml* to go away, esp. on a journey: *She just took off without saying goodbye to anyone.* –see also TAKE¹ (1), TAKEOFF

take on *phr v* **1** [T] **(take** sbdy.↔**on)** to start to employ: *We've decided to take on a new clerk in the accounts department.* **2** [T] **(take on** sthg.) to begin to have (a quality or appearance); ASSUME (3): *These insects can take on the colour of their surroundings.* | *His face took on a worried expression.* **3** [T] **(take** sbdy.↔**on)** to start a quarrel or fight with: *Why don't you take on someone your own size?* | *The trade union made the mistake of trying to take on the government.* **4** [T] **(take** sthg.↔**on)** to accept (work, responsibility, etc.): *My doctor says I'm too tired and has advised me not to take any more work on.* **5** [I] *old-fash infml* to be excited and worried: *Don't* **take on so**; *there's nothing to worry about.*

take sbdy./sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] **1** to go somewhere with (a person) as a social activity: *I'm taking the children out to the theatre tonight.* | *He keeps asking if he can take me out, but I don't really find him attractive.* **2** to obtain officially: *Have you taken out insurance on your house yet?* **3** *euph or tech* to destroy, kill, or cause to be ineffective: *We took the factory out by bombing it.* **4 take someone out of himself/herself** to amuse or interest someone who is feeling unhappy or unwell **5 take it out of someone** *infml* to use all someone's strength: *The long journey seems to have taken it out of her.* –see also TAKE¹ (1)

take sthg. **out on** sbdy. *phr v* [T] to express (one's feelings) by making (someone else) suffer: *It's not my fault you've had a bad day; don't take it out on me.*

take (sthg. ↔) **over** *phr v* [I;T] to gain control over and responsibility for (something): *Who do you think will take over now that the governor has been dismissed?* | *I'm feeling too tired to drive any more; will you take over?* – compare OVERTAKE; see also TAKEOVER

take to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to feel a liking for, esp. at once: *I took to Paul as soon as we met.* | *I'm not sure if he'll take to the idea.* **2** to begin as a practice, habit, etc.: *All this gloomy news is enough to make you take to drink.* [+*v-ing*] *Just lately he's taken to hiding his socks under the carpet.* **3** to go to for rest, hiding, escape, etc.: *Father's ill, so he's taken to his bed.* | *The criminals took to the hills to escape from the police.*

take sbdy./sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] **1** to begin to spend time doing; interest oneself in: *John took up acting while he was at college.* [+*v-ing*] *Alfred's just taken up playing the guitar.* **2** to ask about or take further action about: *I'll take this matter up with my lawyers.* | *No one took up my suggestion.* **3** (of things or events) to fill or use (space or time), esp. in a way that is undesirable: *The job took up most of Sunday.* | *These boxes of yours are taking up too much space.* **4** *AmE* ‖ **cut down** *BrE*– (of trousers, skirts, etc.) to reduce in length by putting in a new HEM (=folding and sewing the bottom of the garment); to HEM **5** [**(on)**] to accept the offer of: *Can I* **take you up on your offer** *of a meal?* **6** to continue: *I'll take up the story where I finished yesterday.* –see also TAKE¹ (11,16), TAKEUP

take up with sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** to become friendly with (esp. someone undesirable): *She's taken up with a rather wild crowd.* **2 taken up with** very busy with: *He can't help; he's too taken up with his own problems.*

take² *n* **1** the filming of a scene for a cinema film: *We had to do six takes before the director was satisfied.* **2** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* the amount of money taken, esp. by a business: *Our take was up* (=we received more money) *this week.* –see also DOUBLE TAKE **3** [**(on)**] *AmE* a way of experiencing or understanding something: *What's your take on this situation?* | *He has a different take on reality than most people.*

take·a·way /ˈteɪkəweɪ/ *BrE* ‖ **carryout, takeout** *AmE*– *n* (a meal bought from) a shop from which cooked meals can be taken away to be eaten somewhere else: *Let's get*

a takeaway – I can't be bothered to cook. | *There's a Chinese takeaway in the town centre.* –compare **to go** (GO[1] (31))

take-home pay /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n* [U] wages left after all taxes, PENSION payments, etc., have been paid

take·off /ˈteɪk-ɒf‖-ɔːf/ *n* **1** [C;U] the beginning of a flight, when a plane, spacecraft, etc., rises from the ground: *We had a smooth takeoff.* | *You're not allowed to smoke until after takeoff.* **2** [C] the act of leaving the ground in making a jump: *A long-jumper needs to get his takeoff exactly right.* **3** [C (**of**)] *infml* an amusing copy of someone's typical behaviour: *She does a marvellous takeoff of the Queen.* –see also TAKE **off**

take·out /ˈteɪkaʊt/ *n AmE for* TAKEAWAY

take·o·ver /ˈteɪkˌəʊvəʳ/ *n* an act of gaining control, esp. of a business company by buying most of the shares –see also TAKE **over**

takeover bid /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a BID[2] to gain control of a company by buying most of the SHARES[1] (2)

ta·ker /ˈteɪkəʳ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml* someone who is willing to accept an offer: *I advertised my car for sale at £250, but there were no takers.*

take·up /ˈteɪkʌp/ *n* the rate at which people buy or accept something offered by a company, government, etc.: *Despite the advertising campaign, there hasn't been a very big takeup of shares so far.* –see also TAKE **up**

tak·ing /ˈteɪkɪŋ/ *adj old-fash* attractive; FETCHING

tak·ings /ˈteɪkɪŋz/ *n* [P] money received, esp. by a shop: *After we've closed, we count the day's takings.*

Talbot see PEUGEOT

talc /tælk/ *n* [U] **1** a soft smooth greenish-grey mineral that feels like soap and is used in making paints, plastics, and various body powders **2** *infml* talcum powder

tal·cum pow·der /ˈtælkəm ˌpaʊdəʳ/ *n* [U] a very fine powder of crushed talc, which is put on the body to dry it or make it smell pleasant

tale /teɪl/ *n* **1** a story of imaginary events, esp. of an exciting kind: *tales of adventure* –see also TALL STORY **2** a report or description, perhaps not completely true, of an event or situation: *We listened to their tales about life in the prisoner-of-war camp.* **3** a false or unkind account: *Children shouldn't tell tales.* (=tell lies about each other) –see also TELLTALE[2] **4 and thereby hangs a tale** *quote* a phrase from several plays by William Shakespeare. People use this phrase when something is mentioned about which there is a lot more to tell. **5 a tale told by an idiot** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, used when saying that something has no meaning **6 old wives' tale** a foolish old-fashioned belief, once thought to be true

tale·bear·er /ˈteɪlˌbeərəʳ/ *n old use* a person who intentionally spreads false or unkind pieces of news around

tal·ent /ˈtælənt/ *n* **1** [S (**for**);U] (a) special natural ability or skill: *He has a talent for drawing.* | *She has great musical/artistic talent.* –see GENIUS (USAGE) **2** [U+*sing./pl. v*] people who have (a) talent: *There was a lack of local talent, so the drama group hired an actor from London.* | *a competition to encourage young talent.* **3** [U+*sing./pl. v*] *BrE sl* sexually attractive people: *We stood on the corner eyeing up the talent.*

tal·ent·ed /ˈtæləntɨd/ *adj* having or showing talent: *a very talented actor*

talent scout /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a SCOUT[1] (4)

Tale of Two Cit·ies /ˌ· · · ˈ··/, **A** a book by Charles Dickens, written in 1859, set in Paris and London at the time of the French Revolution

tal·is·man /ˈtælɨzmən/ *n* **-s** an object which is believed to have magic powers of protection

talk[1] /tɔːk/ *v* **1** [I (**to, with, about**)] to use or produce words; speak: *Human beings can talk; animals can't.* | *Come here; I want to talk to you.* | *Union leaders have been talking with the president about the proposed new law.* | *They were all talking at once.* | *I don't know what you're talking about!* (=I don't understand what you mean) **2** [I] to express thoughts as if by speech: *People who cannot speak or hear can talk by using signs.* **3** [I] to copy human speech: *Have you taught your parrot to talk?* **4** [I] *infml* to give information, usu. unwillingly: *In spite of the police interrogation, the suspect refused to talk.* **5** [I] to speak about other people's actions and private lives; GOSSIP: *Don't park your car outside my house; you know how people talk!* **6** [T] to express in words: *Don't talk such nonsense!* **7** [T] to speak about; DISCUSS: *Now the meal's over it's time to talk business.* **8 now you're talking** *infml* (used for expressing very eager agreement or acceptance): *"Instead of Blackpool, why don't we go to the South of France for our holidays this year?" "Now you're talking!"* **9 You can talk!/You're a fine one to talk!, Look who's talking!** *infml* (used to suggest, often humorously, that someone should not find fault because they are just as bad): *"Don't play your radio so loud." "You're a fine one to talk!"* (=you play your own radio even louder) **10 talk a blue streak** *AmE* to talk very quickly without stopping: *He can talk a blue streak if he's given the chance.* **11 talk back** *AmE* for **answer back** (ANSWER[2]) **12 talk of the devil** (used when someone who has just been mentioned actually arrives): *John said he'd be coming – and talk of the devil, here he is now.* **13 talk through one's hat** to say something stupid; talk about something one knows nothing about: *He says he understands economic theory, but he's talking through his hat!* **14 talk tough** to say in a very determined way that you will do something, esp. something to control someone else: *The Home Secretary talked tough and wheeled out two new measures against the joyriders.* **15 talk turkey** *infml, esp. AmE* to talk seriously and openly, esp. about business matters **16 We have ways of making you talk** a phrase used as a threat in old British films by German soldiers questioning prisoners, now often used humorously

▷ USAGE 1 **Speak** and **talk** are very close in meaning, but **talk** usually gives the idea of a conversation, rather than of a single person making statements: *We* **talked** *for hours about politics.* | *The director* **spoke** *to us about the company's plans.* 2 **Speak** and **talk** are sometimes transitive, but can never have a person as their object: *Do you* **speak** *French?* | *You're* **talking** *nonsense!* –see also SAY (USAGE), SPEAK (USAGE)◁

talk sbdy./sthg.↔**down** *phr v* [T] **1** to guide (a plane or its PILOT) safely to the ground, esp. when it is impossible to see well, by giving instructions by radio **2** *AmE infml* to persuade to be more calm: *At one point she threatened to fine us all but we talked her down.* | *The police are trying to talk down that guy about to jump off the bridge.*

talk down to sbdy. *phr v* [T] to speak to as if one were more important, more clever, etc.; PATRONIZE

talk sbdy. **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to persuade (someone) to do (something): *He refused at first, but I managed to talk him into it.* [+*v-ing*] *She talked me into buying a new car.* –compare TALK **out of**

talk sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] **1** to settle by talking: *Unions and employers usually try to talk out their differences before taking action against each other.* **2** *BrE* to prevent (a law) from being accepted by talking in Parliament until there is no time left for voting

talk sbdy. **out of** sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to persuade (someone) not to do (something): *See if you can talk her out of it.* [+*v-ing*] *The policeman talked the man out of jumping from the top of the building.* –compare TALK **into** **2 talk one's way out of** to escape from (trouble) by talking: *She could talk her way out of anything!*

talk sthg.↔**over** *phr v* [T (**with**)] to speak about thoroughly and seriously, esp. in order to settle a problem or reach a decision: *If you're worried about this change of career, why don't you talk it over with your family?*

talk round *phr v* [T] **1 (talk** sbdy. **round)** to persuade (someone) to change their mind: *She resisted at first, but we were finally able to talk her round (to our point of view).* **2 (talk round** sthg.) to avoid speaking directly about (a matter)

talk[2] *n* **1** [S (**with, about**)] a conversation: *I met Mr Jones in the street and had a long talk with him about his operation.* **2** [C (**on, about**)] an informal speech or LECTURE: *She gave a talk on Mozart to the college Music Society.* **3** [U] a particular way of speech or conversation: *baby talk* | *his slick sales talk* | *That's fighting talk!* (=a brave or threatening way of talking) –see also SMALL TALK, SWEET TALK **4** [U] empty or meaningless speech: *His threats are just talk. Don't worry!* **5** [*the*+S+**of**] a subject much talked about by everyone in a particular place:

Her sudden marriage is the talk of the street. –see also TALKS

talk·a·tive /ˈtɔːkətɪv/ *adj* liking to talk a lot – ~**ness** *n* [U]

talk·er /ˈtɔːkəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who talks, esp. one who talks a lot or in a persuasive way: *What a talker that man is – no one else can get a word in!* | *She's a good talker.* **2** a bird that can copy human speech

talk·ie /ˈtɔːki/ *n old use infml* a cinema film with sounds and words –compare SILENT FILM

talking book /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a book recorded onto TAPE or COMPACT DISC for blind people to listen to

Talking Heads /ˌ·· ˈ·/ an American NEW WAVE music group begun in 1974 by David Byrne. Their songs include *Psycho Killer* and *Road to Nowhere.*

talking point /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a subject of argument or conversation

talking-to /ˈ·· ·/ *n infml* an angry talk in order to blame or CRITICIZE; scolding (SCOLD): *I'm going to give that boy a good talking-to!*

talks /tɔːks/ *n* [P] a formal exchange of opinions and views: *The two presidents met for talks.* | *peace talks*

talk show /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* CHAT SHOW

tall /tɔːl/ *adj* **1** having a greater than average height: *a tall man|building|tree* **2** [after *n*] having the stated height: *He is six feet tall.* **3 tall, dark, and handsome** (of a man) very attractive –see HIGH (USAGE) – ~**ish** *adj* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

Tal·la·has·see /ˌtælə ˈhæsi/ the state capital of Florida in the US –see colour map on pages 1374–5

tall·boy /ˈtɔːlbɔɪ/ *BrE* ‖ **highboy** *AmE*– *n* a tall piece of wooden furniture containing several drawers

Tal·ley·rand /ˈtæliræn d/, **Charles Mau·rice** /ʃɑːl mɔːˈriːs‖ ʃɑːrl-/ (1754–1838) a French politician who was foreign minister under Napoleon and represented France at the CONGRESS of Vienna in 1814–15

Tal·linn , -Talin /ˈtælɪn‖ˈtɑː-/ the capital city of Estonia

tall or·der /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [S] *infml* a request or piece of work that is unreasonably difficult to perform

tal·low /ˈtæləʊ/ *n* [U] hard animal fat used for making candles

tall pop·py /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n AustrE* a rich or famous person who acts in a way that shows that they think they are important

tall ship /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a ship with sails set across rather than along the length of the ship; *a* SQUARE-RIGGED *ship*

tall sto·ry /ˌ· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ *usu.* **tall tale** /ˌ· ˈ·/ *AmE*– *n* a story that EXAGGERATES (=makes events and things seem larger, better, or worse than they actually were)

tal·ly[1] /ˈtæli/ *n* **1** a record of things done, points made in a game, etc.: *Don't forget to keep a careful tally of what you spend.* | *England's tally at the moment is 15 points, against Scotland's 11.* **2** (in former times) a stick with NOTCHes cut in it to show an amount of money owed, a quantity of goods delivered, etc.

tally[2] *v* **1** [I (**with**)] to be exactly equal or in agreement; match: *Your figures don't tally with mine.* | *Our figures don't tally.* **2** [T (UP)] to calculate (points won, a total, an account, etc.); count

tal·ly·ho /ˌtæliˈhəʊ/ *interj, BrE* (an expression shouted by a fox hunter when he or she sees the fox)

Tal·mud /ˈtælmʊd/ [*the*] the body of Jewish law concerned with religious and non-religious life

tal·on /ˈtælən/ *n* a sharp powerful curved nail on the feet of some hunting birds, used for catching animals for food

tam·a·rind /ˈtæmərɨnd/ *n* (the fruit of) a tropical tree

Tam·bo /ˈtæmbəʊ/, **Ol·i·ver** /ˈɒlɨvəʳ‖ˈɑː-/ (1917–) a South African nationalist politician, who was president of the AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS from 1977 to 1990. He left South Africa in 1960 when the ANC was banned (BAN).

tam·bour /ˈtæmbʊəʳ/ *n* a small circular frame made from two circles of wood, one of which fits inside the other to hold cloth firmly in place while patterns are being sewn on it

tam·bou·rine /ˌtæmbəˈriːn/ *n* a small hand-held DRUM made from a circular frame with a skin stretched over and small metal plates fastened round the edge –see picture at PERCUSSION

tame[1] /teɪm/ *adj* **1** not fierce or wild; trained to live with people: *a tame animal* **2** *infml* dull; unexciting and uninteresting: *The football match was so tame that we left early.* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

tame[2] *v* [T] to train (a wild, uncontrollable, or fierce animal) to be gentle and often also to obey commands: (fig.) *One day man will tame nature.* –compare DOMESTICATE (1) –**tamable** *or* **tameable** *adj* –**tamer** *n*

Tam·il /ˈtæmɨl/ *n* **1** [C] a member of a people of S India and Sri Lanka **2** [U] the language spoken by these people –**Tamil** *adj*

Tamil Na·du /ˌtæmɨl nɑːˈduː/ a state in SE India, formerly called **Madras**

Tamil Ti·gers /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a group of GUERRILLAS who support a separate state for the Tamil Hindu people of Sri Lanka

Taming of the Shrew /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/, **The** a humorous play by William Shakespeare. The main character is Kate, a rich and unfriendly woman who is eventually persuaded by her lover to marry him.

tam-o'-shan·ter /ˌtæm ə ˈʃæntəʳ/ *n* a Scottish cap, usu. woollen, with a POMPOM in the centre, worn pulled down on one side –see picture at HAT

tamp /tæmp/ *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *rare* to pack tightly or force down by repeated light blows

Tam·pa /ˈtæmpə/ a city in W Florida in the US –see colour map on pages 1374–5

Tam·pax /ˈtæmpæks/ *n tdmk* a popular make of TAMPON

tam·per /ˈtæmpəʳ/ *v*

tamper with sthg. *phr v* [T] to touch or make changes in (something) without permission, esp. so as to cause damage: *After the accident it was found that the car had been tampered with.*

tamper-ev·i·dent /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *adj* (of a JAR or packet) made to show whether someone has opened it before it is sold in the shops: *tamper-evident packaging* | *Baby-food jars are now tamper-evident.* –see also CONSUMER TERRORISM

tamper-proof /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* (of a JAR or packet) made in a way that prevents someone opening it before it is sold, for example to add poison or to damage it in some way –see also CONSUMER TERRORISM

tam·pon /ˈtæmpɒn‖-pɑːn/ *n* a tube-shaped mass of cotton or similar material fitted into a woman's VAGINA to ABSORB the monthly bleeding –compare SANITARY TOWEL

tan[1] /tæn/ *v* **-nn-** **1** [T] to change (animal skin) into leather by treating with TANNIN **2** [I;T] to (cause to) become brown, esp. by sunlight: *Janet tanned quickly in the hot sun.* | *This special chemical liquid will tan you as you sleep.* **3 tan someone's hide** also **tan the hide off someone**– *infml* to beat someone severely

tan[2] *n* **1** [U] a light yellowish brown colour: *tan shoes* **2** [C] a SUNTAN: *All the people who went abroad for their holidays came back with nice tans.*

tan[3] *abbrev. for:* TANGENT (2)

tan·dem /ˈtændəm/ *n* **1** a bicycle built for two riders sitting one behind the other **2 in tandem** with both working closely together: *The two computers operate in tandem.*

tan·doo·ri /tænˈdʊəri/ *n* [U] (meat, bread, etc., cooked by) a northern Indian method of cooking in a large closed clay pot: *tandoori chicken*

tang /tæŋ/ *n* [S] a strong sharp taste or smell: *the salty tang of the sea air* – ~**y** *adj* : *tangy oranges*

Tang *n* [U] *tdmk* a powder which when mixed with water makes a drink that tastes rather like oranges. Tang was developed for the US space programme for the ASTRONAUTS.

Tan·gan·yi·ka /ˌtæŋgənˈjiːkə/ see TANZANIA

Tanganyika, Lake a large lake between Zaïre and Tanzania

tan·gent /ˈtændʒənt/ *n* **1** a straight line touching the edge of a curve but not cutting across it **2** *tech* the FRACTION calculated for an angle by dividing the length of the side opposite it in a RIGHT-ANGLED TRIANGLE by the length of the side next to it –compare COSINE, SINE **3 go/fly off at a tangent** *infml* to change suddenly from one subject, course of thought, etc., to another: *It's impossible to have a logical discussion with him – he keeps going off at a tangent.*

tan·gen·tial /tæn'dʒenʃəl/ *adj* **1** *fml* having only an indirect connection or importance; PERIPHERAL: *tangential comments* **2** *fml* moving or going out in different directions; showing DIVERGENCE **3** [(**to**)] *tech* (having the nature) of a TANGENT (1) —~**ly** *adv*

tan·ge·rine /ˌtændʒə'riːn‖'tændʒəriːn/ *n* **1** [C] a small sweet orange with a loose skin that comes off easily **2** [U] a dark or reddish orange colour

tan·gi·ble /'tændʒəbəl/ *adj* **1** clear and certain; real; not imaginary: *The police need tangible proof of his guilt before they charge him.* | *The policy has not yet brought any tangible benefits.* —opposite **intangible** **2** *fml* that can be felt by touch: *Sculpture is a tangible art form.* —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˌtændʒə'bɪlətiː/ *n* [U]

Tan·giers /tæn'dʒɪəz‖-'dʒɪərz/ also **Tangier** a port in Morocco

tan·gle[1] /'tæŋgəl/ *v* [I;T (UP)] **1** to (cause to) become a confused mass of disordered and twisted threads: *This fine thread tangles easily.* | *The wind tangled her hair.* | *My scarf got tangled up in the barbed wire fence.* | (fig.) *the complex, tangled politics of this region* —see also ENTANGLE **2** *O what a tangled web we weave, When first we practise to deceive! quote* a phrase from *Marmion* by Sir Walter Scott. People use the phrase when someone is not telling the truth and getting themselves into more difficulties.

tangle with sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to quarrel, argue, or fight with

tangle[2] *n* **1** [(**of**)] a confused disordered mass: *We had to cut our way through a tangle of branches.* **2** a confused disordered state: *The wool was in such a tangle that it was useless.* | *He got into an awful tangle with his homework, and had to ask me to help.* **3** [(**with**)] *infml* a quarrel, fight, or disagreement

tan·go[1] /'tæŋgəʊ/ *n* **-gos** (a piece of music for) a lively dance of Spanish American origin

tango[2] *v* [I] **1** to dance the tango **2 it takes two to tango** both people are responsible for what they have done: *She says he led her astray, but it takes two to tango.*

tan·gram /'tængræm/ *n* a Chinese PUZZLE which uses a large square which is cut into TRIANGLES and other shapes, to make different figures

tank /tæŋk/ *n* **1** a large container for storing liquid or gas: *The tank in my car holds 40 litres of petrol.* | *a fish tank* **2** an enclosed heavily armed and armoured vehicle that moves on two endless metal belts (CATERPILLARS) **3** *esp. IndE & PakE* a large artificial pool for storing water — see also THINK TANK

tan·kard /'tæŋkəd‖-ərd/*BrE* ‖ **stein** *AmE*— *n* a large usu. metal drinking cup, usu. with a handle and lid, used for drinking beer

tanked up /ˌ· '·/ *adj* [F] *BrE sl* drunk, esp. from drinking beer

tank·er /'tæŋkəʳ/ *n* a ship, plane, or railway or road vehicle specially built to carry large quantities of gas or liquid, esp. oil —see also OIL TANKER

tank top /'· ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* a usu. woollen, tightfitting top without SLEEVES, worn over a BLOUSE or shirt and popular esp. in the 1970s **2** *AmE* a top without SLEEVES which is made of very light material such as cotton, for wearing in very hot weather

tan·ner[1] /'tænəʳ/ *n* a person whose job is making animal skin into leather by tanning (TAN[1])

tanner[2] *n BrE old sl for* SIXPENCE

tan·ne·ry /'tænəri/ *n* a place where animal skin is made into leather by tanning (TAN[1])

tan·nin /'tænɨn/ also **tan·nic ac·id** /ˌtænɪk 'æsɨd/— *n* [U] a reddish acid made from the BARK (=the outer covering) of certain trees, esp. the OAK, used in preparing leather, making ink, etc. It is also found naturally in tea leaves, GRAPE skins, etc.

Tan·noy /'tænɔɪ/ *n* [(*the*) S] *tdmk, esp. BrE* a system of giving out information to the public by means of LOUDSPEAKERS: *We heard the flight announcement over the Tannoy at the airport.*

tan·ta·lize also **-lise** *BrE* /'tæntəl-aɪz/ *v* [T] to make (someone) want something even more strongly by keeping it just out of reach: *While we were shut up in the classroom, the tantalizing smell of cooking wafted up from downstairs.* —**lizingly** *adv*: *We were tantalizingly close to finding the solution.*

tan·ta·lus /'tæntəl-əs/ *n* a case in which bottles of alcoholic drink can be locked up in such a way that they can be seen

tan·ta·mount /'tæntəmaʊnt/ *adj* [F+**to**] having the same value, force, or effect as (esp. something bad or unwanted): *This invasion is tantamount to a declaration of war.* | *They have now abandoned their former policy, which is tantamount to admitting that it was wrong.*

tan·trum /'tæntrəm/ *n* a sudden attack of childish bad temper or anger: *That spoilt child always flies into a tantrum/throws a tantrum when he's contradicted.*

Tan·za·ni·a /ˌtænzə'niːə/ a country in East Africa formed by the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar; capital Dodoma; population 24,802,000 (1989) —**nian** *n,adj*

Tao /taʊ, daʊ/ *also* **Dao**— *n* [U] **1** (in Taoism) the universal force producing agreement in nature **2** (in Taoism) the best way of living, in agreement with nature and the universe

Taoi·seach /'tiːʃək, -ʃəx/ [*the*] the title of the PRIME MINISTER of the Republic of Ireland

Tao·is·m /'taʊɪzəm, 'daʊ-/ *n* [U] a religion developed in ancient China teaching a simple way of life and the principle of not trying to change the natural course of events, also in later times concerned with magic and good fortune —**-ist** *adj, n*

tap[1] /tæp/ *n* **1** ‖ also **faucet** *AmE*— an apparatus for controlling the flow of liquid or gas from a pipe or container, esp. one for water: *I turned on the tap and hot water came out.* | *He left the taps running and the bath overflowed.* | *bathroom taps* | *a gas tap* —see picture at KITCHEN and at LABORATORY **2** an act or example of tapping (TAP[2] (2)) someone's telephone —see also WIRETAP **3** a specially shaped object made to fit and close the opening in a barrel **4 on tap: a** (of beer) from a barrel **b** *infml* ready for use when needed; AVAILABLE: *We've got a lot of experts on tap to advise us.*

tap[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to use or take what is needed from: *We have enormous reserves of oil still waiting to be tapped.* **2** to listen secretly or illegally to (a person, telephone conversation, etc.) by making a connection to (the telephone, a telephone wire, etc.): *The secret agent suspects that his phone is being tapped.* **3** to open (a barrel) so as to draw off (liquid) **4** to get liquid from (the trunk of a tree) by making a hole in it: *to tap maple/rubber trees* **5** [(**for**)] *BrE infml* to get money from: *He tapped me for a fiver.*

tap into sthg. *phr v* [T] to TAP[2] (1): *to tap into our currency reserves/recent developments in technology*

tap[3] *v* **-pp-** [I;T (**on**)] **1** to hit (the hand, foot, etc.) lightly against something: *The teacher tapped her fingers on the desk impatiently.* | *She tapped her feet in time to the music.* | *He was tapping away on his typewriter until late into the night.* **2** to hit (something) lightly with a quick short blow, esp. to attract attention: *I tapped (on) the window to let them know I'd arrived.* —compare KNOCK[1] (1)

tap[4] *n* [(**on**)] a short light blow: *I heard a tap on the window.*

tap·a /'tæpə/ *n* [*usu.* P] a small dish of food eaten as part of the first course of a meal in Spain or in Spanish RESTAURANTS. Tapas may be fish, vegetable, or meat dishes.

tap dance /'· ˌ·/ *n* a stage dance in which musical time is beaten on the floor by the feet of the dancer, who wears special shoes with pieces of metal on the bottom —**tap dancer** *n* —**tap dancing** *n* [U]

tape[1] /teɪp/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a long thin piece of) narrow material used for various purposes such as tying up parcels, marking out areas of ground, etc.: *to put insulating tape on electric wires* | *adhesive tape* **2** *also* **adhesive tape, sticky tape, Sellotape** *tdmk* ‖ **Scotch tape** *AmE tdmk*— (a piece of) narrow material which is sticky on one or both sides, used to stick things, esp. paper products, together —see also MASKING TAPE **3** [C;U] **a** (a length of) narrow plastic material covered with a special MAGNETIC substance on which sound can be recorded and played back on a TAPE RECORDER **b** a CASSETTE **c** a VIDEOTAPE[1] **4** [C (**of**)] also **tape re·cord·ing** /'· ·ˌ··/— a length of this on which a performance, piece of music, speech, etc., has been recorded: *We listened to some tapes of her songs.* **5** [*the*+S] a string stretched across the finishing line in a

race and broken by the winner **6** [C] a TAPE MEASURE – see also RED TAPE, TICKERTAPE

tape[2] *v* **1** [I;T] **a** also **tape-re·cord** /ˈ· ˌ·/, **record**– to record (sound) on TAPE[1] (3) with a TAPE RECORDER **b** to VIDEOTAPE[2]: *We've taped the rock concert|the interview.* **2** [T (UP)] to fasten or tie (a parcel, packet, etc.) with TAPE[1] (1) **3** *AmE* to stick something onto something else using tape[1] (2) **4** [T (UP) *often pass.*] *AmE for* STRAP[2] (2): *The doctors have taped up his swollen ankle.* **5** *BrE* **have someone/something taped** *infml* to understand thoroughly or have learnt how to deal with someone/something: *The arrangements are rather complicated, but I think I've got it all taped.* | *You can't fool her – she's got you taped.*

tape deck /ˈ· ·/ *n* the apparatus in a TAPE RECORDER that winds the TAPE[1] (2) and records and plays back sound, esp. one that is connected to a separate system

tape mea·sure /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a long band of narrow cloth or bendable steel, marked with divisions of length, used for measuring –compare RULER (2)

ta·per[1] /ˈteɪpəʳ/ *v* [I;T (OFF)] **1** to (cause to) become gradually narrower towards one end: *The animal's tail tapered off to a point.* | *She had long tapering fingers.* **2** to slow down or decrease gradually: *Interest in the scandal seems to be tapering off.*

taper[2] *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] a gradual decrease in the width of a long object **2** a very thin candle **3** a length of string covered in WAX, used esp. in former times for lighting candles, lamps, etc.

tape re·cord·er /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* an electrical apparatus which can record sound on TAPE[1] (2) and play it back

tap·es·try /ˈtæpɨstri/ *n* [C;U] (a usu. large piece of) heavy cloth on which coloured threads are woven to produce a picture, pattern, etc.: *The walls of the banqueting hall were hung with tapestries.* | (fig., *pomp*) *Such strange events are all part of* **life's rich tapestry.** **–tried** *adj*

tape·worm /ˈteɪpwɜːm‖-wɜːrm/ *n* a long flat worm that when fully-grown lives in the bowels of human beings and other animals

tap·i·o·ca /ˌtæpiˈəʊkə◂/ *n* [U] small hard white grains made from the crushed dried roots of CASSAVA, esp. used for making sweet dishes

ta·pir /ˈteɪpəʳ/ *n* **tapir** *or* **tapirs** a piglike animal of tropical America and Southeast Asia, with thick legs, a short tail, and a long nose

tap·pet /ˈtæpɨt/ *n* a machine part that passes on movement, esp. a part in an engine that passes on movement from a CAM to a VALVE or a part that turns an apparatus on and off at set times

tap·root /ˈtæpruːt/ *n* the main root of a plant, which grows straight down and produces smaller side roots

taps /tæps/ *n* [U] a song or a tune played on the BUGLE last thing at night in an army camp or SUMMER CAMP, or at military funerals or services. In the US, a particular tune is associated with taps, and the words: *Day is done.| Gone the sun,| from the lakes, to the hills, to the skies.| All is well.| Safely rest.| God is nigh.*

tar[1] /tɑːʳ/ *n* **1** [U] a black substance, thick and sticky when hot and hard when cold, used for making road surfaces, preserving wood, etc. –see also COAL TAR **2** [C] *becoming rare* a JACK TAR

tar[2] *v* **-rr-** [T] **1** to cover with tar: *They're tarring the road.* **2 tar and feather** to put tar on (someone) and then cover them with feathers as a punishment **3 tarred with the same brush** having, or (often unfairly) believed to have, the same faults

ta·ra·ma·sa·la·ta /ˌtærəməsəˈlɑːtə/ *n* [U] a Greek food consisting of a pink mixture made from the eggs of certain fish

tar·an·tel·la /ˌtærənˈtelə/ *n* (a piece of music for) a fast Italian dance

ta·ran·tu·la /təˈræntjʊlə‖-tʃələ/ *n* a large hairy slightly poisonous SPIDER from Southern Europe and tropical America, believed by most people to be much more poisonous than it really is

tar ba·by /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* something which sticks to or weighs down a person and is very difficult to remove (from the DOLL covered in tar in one of the stories about Brer Rabbit by J C Harris)

Tar·buck /ˈtɑːbʌk‖ˈtɑːr-/, **Jimmy** (1940–) an English television presenter and COMEDIAN

Tar·dis /ˈtɑːdɨs‖ˈtɑːr-/ [*the*] the machine in which Doctor Who and his friends travel through time. It looks like an old police telephone box, and is much larger inside than it is outside. –see DR WHO

tar·dy /ˈtɑːdi‖ˈtɑːrdi/ *adj esp. fml or lit* **1** delayed beyond the proper or expected time; late: *We apologize for our tardy response to your letter.* | *a tardy arrival* **2** acting or moving slowly; SLUGGISH: **–-dily** *adv* **–-diness** *n* [U]

tare[1] /teəʳ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *tech* **1** the weight of wrapping material in which goods are packed **2** the weight of an unloaded goods vehicle **3** this amount subtracted when weighing a loaded goods vehicle, in order to calculate the actual weight of the goods

tare[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] *bibl* an unwanted plant growing among corn; WEED

target





tar·get[1] /ˈtɑːgɨt‖ˈtɑːr-/ *n* **1 a** something fired at in shooting practice, esp. a round card or board with circles on it: *He fired and hit|but missed the target.* | *The soldiers were doing their* **target practice. b** any object or place at which an attack is directed: *The enemy's main target is our oil refinery.* **2 a** a total or amount/object which one aims to reach; GOAL: *I've set myself a target of saving £5 a week.* | *We have failed to meet* (=reach) *this year's production target of 25,000 cars.* | *I'm on a diet, and my target weight is 70 kilos.* | *The government's house-building programme is* **(bang) on target.** (=they have built the (exact) number that they aimed to build) **b** a limited group, area, etc., at which something is specially directed: *What's the target readership of this paper?* (=What sort of people are expected to read it?) **3** [**(of**)] a person or thing that is made the object of unfavourable remarks, jokes, etc.: *This plan will be the target of a great deal of criticism.*

target[2] *v* [T **(on, at)**] **1** to aim at a target: *The enemy's missiles are targeted on our cities.* **2** to cause to have an effect on a particular, intentionally limited group: *Welfare spending is being cut, so it should be targeted on the people who need it most.*

tar·iff /ˈtærɨf/ *n* **1** a tax collected by a government on goods coming into or sometimes going out of a country –see TAX (USAGE) **2** *esp. BrE* a list of fixed prices, such as the cost of meals or rooms, charged by a hotel, restaurant, etc.

Tar·ka the Ot·ter /ˌtɑːkə ðiˈɒtəʳ‖ˌtɑːrkə ðiˈɑː-/ a book written for children by Henry Williamson in 1927

tar·mac[1] /ˈtɑːmæk‖ˈtɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] also **tar·ma·cad·am** /ˌtɑːməˈkædəm‖ˌtɑːr-/ ‖ *usu.* **asphalt** *AmE*– a mixture of TAR and very small stones, used for making the surface of roads **2** [*the*+S] an area covered with tarmac, esp. one used for landing aircraft on: *The plane had to wait half an hour on the tarmac because of fog.*

tarmac[2] *v* **-macked, -macking** [T] to cover (a road's surface) with tarmac

tarn /tɑːn‖tɑːrn/ *n* (*often cap. as part of a name*) a small mountain lake or pool, esp. in the north of England

tar·nish[1] /ˈtɑːnɪʃ‖ˈtɑːr-/ *v* [I;T] to make or become dull, discoloured, or less bright: *Silver, copper, and brass need to be polished frequently to prevent them from tarnishing.*| (fig.) *a tarnished reputation*

tarnish[2] *n* [S;U] dullness; loss of brightness or polish

ta·ro /ˈtɑːrəʊ/ *n* **taros** a tropical plant grown for its thick root which is boiled and eaten as food

tar·ot /ˈtærəʊ/ [*the*] [*the*] a set of 78 cards, sometimes used for telling the future. 22 of the cards have symbolic pictures on them.

tar·pau·lin /tɑːˈpɔːlɨn‖tɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] (a sheet or cover of)

heavy cloth specially treated so that water will not pass through it: *The load on the trailer had a (sheet of) tarpaulin strapped over it.*

tar·ra·gon /ˈtærəgən/ *n* [U] **1** (a small European plant grown for its) strong-smelling leaves that give a special taste to food

tar·ry[1] /ˈtæri/ *v* [I] *old use or lit* **1** to stay in a place, esp. when one should leave; LINGER **2** to delay or be slow in starting, going, coming, etc.: *Do not tarry on the way.*

tar·ry[2] /ˈtɑːri/ *adj* covered with TAR

tar·sus /ˈtɑːsəs‖ˈtɑːr-/ *n* **-si** /saɪ/ *med* (the seven small bones in) the ankle —**-sal** *adj*

tart[1] /tɑːt‖tɑːrt/ *n* **1** [C;U] *BrE* a usu. open pastry case containing fruit or JAM —see PIE (USAGE) **2** [C] *infml derog* **a** a girl or woman who is, or appears to be, sexually immoral **b** a PROSTITUTE

tart[2] *adj* **1** sharp to the taste; acid-tasting; sour: *a tart apple* **2** having a bitter and unkind quality; SARCASTIC: *Her tart reply upset me.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

tart[3] *v*

tart sbdy./sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] *BrE infml, usu. derog* to make noticeably attractive or decorative by painting in bright colours, putting on cheap jewellery or colourful clothes, etc.: *I wish she wouldn't tart herself up when she goes dancing.* | *They've tarted up that old cottage so much you wouldn't recognize it.*

tar·tan /ˈtɑːtn‖ˈtɑːrtn/ *n* **1** [U] woollen cloth woven with bands of different colours and widths crossing each other at right angles, of a kind worn originally by Scottish Highlanders: *a tartan skirt/kilt* **2** [C] a special pattern on this cloth worn by a particular Scottish CLAN, and known by the clan's name: *the Macdonald tartan*

tar·tar[1] /ˈtɑːtəʳ‖ˈtɑːr-/ *n* [U] **1** a hard chalklike substance that forms on the teeth —compare PLAQUE (2) **2** a reddish-brown substance that forms on the insides of wine barrels **3** also **cream of tartar** /ˌ· · ˈ··/— a white powder made by treating this or from chemicals, used in baking and in medicine

tartar[2] *n infml* (*often cap.*) a fierce person with a violent temper (from the **Tartars** or **Tatars** of the USSR, because of their fierce fighters esp. in the 14th and 15th centuries)

tar·tar·ic ac·id /tɑːˌtærɪk ˈæsɨd‖tɑːr-/ *n* [U] a strong acid of plant origin used in preparing certain foods and medicines

tar·tar sauce , tartare sauce /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a white egg-based SAUCE that includes very small pieces of strong-tasting vegetables and is eaten esp. with fish

Tar·zan /ˈtɑːzən‖ˈtɑːr-/ **1** the main character in the Tarzan stories by Edgar Rice Burroughs, about a boy cared for and raised by APES. He swings from tree to tree, is very strong, and is friendly with the animals. He meets a woman called Jane who becomes his companion in one of the stories. The phrase "Me Tarzan. You Jane" comes from this relationship. Films were later made of Burroughs' stories and of some written by other people: *He was wearing only a Tarzan-style loincloth.* **2** a NICKNAME for Michael Heseltine, British politician, because of his long, flowing hair, similar to Tarzan's in the stories and films

Johnny Weismuller as Tarzan



Tash·kent /tæʃˈkent/ a city and capital of Uzbekistan

task /tɑːsk‖tæsk/ *n* **1** *fml* a piece of work (that must be) done, esp. if hard or unpleasant; duty: *I was set/given the* **thankless task** *of reorganizing the office filing system.* | *The new government's prime* (=main) *task is to reduce the level of inflation.* | *He quickly performed the tasks he had been set.* **2 take someone to task** to speak severely to someone for a fault or failure; REPRIMAND: *He's been taken to task for his habitual lack of punctuality.*

task force /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a military force under one commander sent to a place for a special purpose: *A combined naval and army task force was sent to recapture the island.* **2** any group formed for a short time to deal with a particular problem: *The government set up a task force to clear up the area following the earthquake.*

task·mas·ter /ˈtɑːskˌmɑːstəʳ‖ˈtæskˌmæstər/ **task·mis·tress** /-ˌmɪstrɨs/ *fem.*— *n* someone who makes people work very hard, esp. at unpleasant jobs: *Our teacher's a very* **hard taskmaster,** *but he certainly gets good results from his students.*

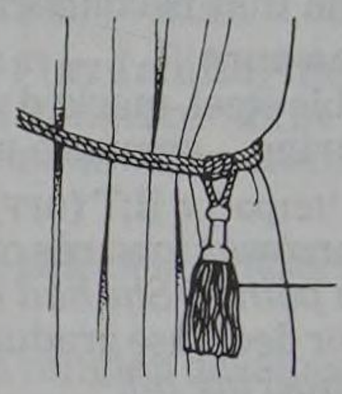
Tas·ma·ni·a /tæzˈmeɪniə/ a large island forming a state of Australia, off its SE coast

Tas·man Sea /ˌtæzmən ˈsiː/ a part of the South Pacific Ocean between Australia and New Zealand

Tass , TASS /tæs/ the official national news organization of the former Soviet Union

tas·sel /ˈtæsəl/ *n* **1** a bunch of threads tied together into a round ball at one end and hung as a decoration on clothes, flags, curtains, etc. **2** the flower-like part that grows out of the top of some plants, esp. MAIZE —see also DETASSEL —**-selled** *BrE* ‖ **-seled** *AmE* /ˈtæsəld/ *adj*

tassel



tassel

taste[1] /teɪst/ *n* **1** [U] the special sense by which a person or animal knows one food from another: *I've got a cold, so I've lost my sense of taste.* **2** [S;U] the sensation that is produced when a particular food or drink is put in the mouth and that makes it different from other foods or drinks by its saltiness, sweetness, bitterness, etc: *Sugar has a sweet taste.* | *This cake has no taste/very little taste.* | *This milk has got a funny taste – I think it may have gone sour.* | (fig.) *an unpleasant experience that left a bad taste in her mouth* (=made her feel angry, upset, etc.) **3** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] a small quantity of food or drink that is tasted: *I had a taste of the soup to see if it needed more salt.* | (fig.) *Once you've had a taste* (=a short experience) *of life in our country you won't want to return home.* **4** [U] the ability to make good or suitable judgments in matters such as beauty, style, fashion, music, or social behaviour; DISCERNMENT: *His jokes about the President's illness were* **in (very) bad/poor taste.** | *The furnishings and paintings had been chosen with impeccable taste.* **5** [C;U (**for, in**)] a personal liking for something: *What are your tastes in music?* (=What kind of music do you like?) | *I've always had a taste for 19th century literature.* | *She has expensive taste in clothes.* | *Their house has not been decorated* **to my taste** (=in a way that I like), *but it's very luxurious.* | *Their trip to America gave them a taste for western consumer goods.* **6 to taste** (used in instructions for cooking) in the quantity desired: *Add salt and pepper to taste.* —see also ACQUIRED TASTE, AFTERTASTE

taste[2] *v* **1** [T] to test the taste of (food or drink) by taking a little into the mouth: *I always taste food before adding salt.* | *This cake is delicious – would you like to taste it?* **2** [T *not in progressive forms*] to experience the taste of: *I've got a cold so I can't taste what I'm eating.* **3** [T *not in progressive forms*] to eat or drink: *The escaped prisoner had not tasted food for three days.* | *I've never tasted such delicious beef!* | (fig.) *Since tasting* (=experiencing) *the excitement of big city life, she never wants to live in the country again.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **of, like**;L+*adj*; *not in progressive forms*] to have a particular taste: *These oranges taste nice.* | *This meat's been overcooked and doesn't taste of anything.* | *This soup tastes of chicken.* | *I've never eaten kiwi fruit – what does it taste like?* | *a sweet-tasting berry* —see CAN (USAGE)

taste bud /ˈ· ·/ *n* a group of cells on the tongue which can tell the difference between foods according to their taste

taste·ful /ˈteɪstfəl/ *adj* having or showing good TASTE[1] (4): *a tasteful arrangement of flowers* —compare TASTY (1) —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

taste·less /ˈteɪstləs/ *adj* **1** having no taste; not tasting of anything: *tasteless soup* **2** having or showing bad TASTE[1] (4): *a tasteless remark* —**~ly** *adv* : *a tastelessly furnished room* —**~ness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE Compare **tasteless** and **distasteful.** When **tasteless** is used of food, it means "having no **taste**". When it is used of people, furniture, clothes, etc., it means "having or showing bad **taste**": *The potatoes were* **tasteless** *without salt.* | *a* **tasteless,** *over-*

furnished room. **Distasteful** is not used in either of these meanings, but only of unpleasant things that must be done: *It is my* **distasteful** *duty to warn you ...*◁

tast·er /ˈteɪstəʳ/ *n* **1** a person whose job is testing the quality of foods, teas, wines, etc., by tasting them: *a wine taster* **2** [**(of)**] a small example of something so that one can see if one will like it: *Here's just a taster of the novel, to whet your appetites.*

tast·y /ˈteɪsti/ *adj* **1** (not usu. of sweet food) having a pleasant noticeable taste; full of FLAVOUR: *a tasty meal* –compare TASTEFUL **2** *infml* (esp. of news) interesting, esp. when concerned with sex or improper behaviour: *a tasty piece of gossip about our neighbour* **3** *infml, esp. BrE* (used esp. by men of a woman) attractive (usu. considered offensive to women) –**-iness** *n* [U]

tat[1] /tæt/ *n* [U] *BrE infml derog* something of very low quality

tat[2] *n* see TIT FOR TAT

ta-ta /tæˈtɑː/ *interj infml, BrE* goodbye

Ta·tar /ˈtɑːtəʳ/ see TARTAR[2]

Tate /teɪt/**, Jef·frey** /ˈdʒefri/ (1943–) an English CONDUCTOR who has worked at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and with the English Chamber Orchestra, as well as in Paris and New York

Tate and Lyle /ˌteɪt ənd ˈlaɪl/ *tdmk* a British company that makes sugar and sugar products

Tate Gal·le·ry /ˌ· ˈ··/ , also **Tate** *infml*– [*the*] an ART GALLERY in SW London known esp. its encouragement of modern art

ta·ter /ˈteɪtəʳ/ *n AmE, sl for* POTATO

Ta·ti /tæˈtiː/**, Jacques** /ʒæk‖ʒɑːk/ (1908–82) a French actor in COMEDY films of the 1940s and 1950s, best known for *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*

Tatler /ˈtætləʳ/**, The** **1** a famous magazine published in London in the early eighteenth century, started by Sir Richard Steele, containing poetry, stories, news, etc. **2** a British monthly magazine which reports on the social events and lives of rich and fashionable people

tat·tered /ˈtætəd‖-ərd/ *adj* **1** (esp. of clothes) old and torn: *a tattered shirt/banner* **2** (of a person) dressed in old torn clothes

tat·ters /ˈtætəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] **1** old torn or worn-out clothing or bits of cloth **2 in tatters** (of clothes) old and torn: (fig.) *His reputation is in tatters.* (=ruined)

tat·tle /ˈtætl/ *v infml, derog* **1** [I] *infml, usu. derog* to talk about small unimportant things, or other people's private affairs; GOSSIP –see also TITTLE-TATTLE **2** *also* **tell on**– (usu. said by children) to tell (a parent, teacher, or other adult) that another child has done something bad, usu. in order to get the other child into trouble (=have them punished): *Don't tattle on me!* –**-tler** *n*

tat·tle·tale /ˈtætlteɪl/ *n* (said of children) someone who tattles: *We're not playing with you any more, because you're a tattletale!*

tat·too[1] /təˈtuː, tæˈtuː/ *n* **-toos** a pattern, picture, or message put on the skin by tattooing: *The sailor had a tattoo saying "I love Anne" on his chest.*

tattoo[2] *v* [T] **1** to make (a pattern, picture, message, etc.) on the skin by pricking (PRICK) with a needle and then pouring coloured DYES in: *He had the words "I love Anne" tattooed on his chest.* **2** to mark by doing this: *a tattooed arm/chest*

tattoo[3] *n* **-toos** **1** an outdoor military show with music, usu. at night: *the Edinburgh tattoo* **2** a rapid continuous beating of drums, esp. played as a military signal

tat·too·ist /təˈtuːɪst, tæ-/ *n* a person whose job is tattooing

tat·ty /ˈtæti/ *adj infml derog, esp. BrE* untidy or in bad condition; SHABBY: *tatty clothes | a few tatty old chairs* –**-tily** *adv* –**-tiness** *n* [U]

Ta·tum /ˈteɪtəm/**, Art** (1910–56) an American JAZZ piano player, almost blind from birth, thought of by many people as one of the greatest jazz pianists

taught /tɔːt/ *past tense & participle of* TEACH

taunt[1] /tɔːnt/ *v* [T **(with, for)**] to try to make (someone) angry or upset by making unkind remarks, laughing at faults or failures, etc.: *They taunted her with her inability to swim. | He was taunted by the other schoolchildren for being fat.* –**~ingly** *adv*

taunt[2] *n* [*often pl.*] a remark or joke intended to hurt someone's feelings or make them angry: *cruel taunts about her ill health*

Taun·ton /ˈtɔːntən/ a town in Somerset in SW England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It is known for its farming and farm machinery, and for CIDER making.

Tau·rus /ˈtɔːrəs/ *n* **1** [U] the second sign of the ZODIAC, represented by a BULL **2** [C] a person born between April 21 and May 22 –see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC **3** an electronic trading system on the British Stock Exchange

taut /tɔːt/ *adj* **1** tightly drawn; stretched tight: *Pull the string taut! | taut muscles* –opposite **slack** **2** showing signs of worry or anxiety; TENSE: *a taut expression on her face* –**~ly** *adv* –**~ness** *n* [U]

taut·en /ˈtɔːtn/ *v* [I;T] to make or become taut

tau·tol·o·gy /tɔːˈtɒlədʒi‖tɔːˈtɑː-/ *n* [C;U] (an) unnecessary repeating of the same idea in different words, as in the sentence *He sat alone by himself.* –**-gical** /ˌtɔːtəˈlɒdʒɪkəl‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* –**-gically** /kli/ *adv*

tav·ern /ˈtævən‖-ərn/ *n old use* a PUB

taw·dry /ˈtɔːdri/ *adj* cheaply showy in appearance and quality; lacking good TASTE[1] (4): *tawdry jewellery* –**-drily** *adv* –**-driness** *n* [U]

taw·ny /ˈtɔːni/ *adj* having a brownish yellow colour: *a lion's tawny fur*

tax[1] /tæks/ *n* **1** [C;U **(on)**] (an amount of) money which must be paid to the government according to income, property, goods bought, etc.: *In Britain, the Inland Revenue collects taxes. | The government plans to increase taxes by five per cent over the next year. | If you sell the painting you'll have to pay capital gains tax (on it). | Half of my wages go in tax. | a plan to impose a tax on betting | They are promising big tax cuts. | The payments were spread over a long period for tax purposes.* (=in order to pay less tax on them) –see also CORPORATION TAX, DIRECT TAX, INCOME TAX, POLL TAX, PURCHASE TAX, VAT **2** [S+**on**] a heavy demand; STRAIN: *The long journey would be too much of a tax on my father's strength.* **3 before/after tax** before/after paying the tax on money received: *What does he earn before tax?*

▷ USAGE Compare **tax, tariff, duty,** and **dues. Tax** is the most general word when talking about money collected by a government. A **tariff** is a tax set by a government on general types of goods entering or leaving the country: *a* **tariff** *on electronic goods.* **Duty** (often **duties**) is used about particular sums of money paid as tax in connection with particular goods or events: *I had to pay customs* **duty** *on the stereo system I had brought from Japan. | death* **duties** (=a tax on property paid when the owner dies). **Dues** (*pl.*) is used about sums of money paid officially (but not directly to a government) for the use of something or for advantages given: *harbour* **dues** *| trade union* **dues.**◁

tax[2] *v* [T] **1** to charge a tax on: *Tobacco and alcoholic drinks are taxed heavily in Britain.* **2** to make heavy demands on; STRAIN: *I found they were taxing my patience by asking such stupid questions.* –see also TAXING – **~able** *adj* : *taxable income/profit*

tax sbdy. **with** sthg. *phr v* [T+*obj*/*v-ing*] *fml* to charge with or blame for (something bad): *He was taxed with neglecting the safety regulations.*

tax·a·tion /tækˈseɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the act of taxing: *The government obtains revenue through* **direct taxation** (=the taxing of income) *and* **indirect taxation.** (=the taxing of goods) **2** money raised from taxes: *We must increase taxation if we are to spend more on education.* **3 taxation without representation** –see BOSTON TEA PARTY

tax a·void·ance /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] any legal way of reducing the amount of tax one has to pay –compare TAX EVASION

tax break /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a reduction in taxes that can be had by taking advantage of government rules that may change from time to time: *The government is offering tax breaks to companies that are environment friendly. | a tax break for insulating your home*

tax-de·duc·ti·ble /ˌ· ·ˈ···◂/ *adj* that may legally be subtracted from one's total income before it is taxed: *My travelling expenses are tax-deductible.*

tax-de·ferred /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj AmE* not taxed until a later time: *tax-deferred income|savings*

tax disc /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in Britain) a small round piece of paper which car drivers must stick on their WINDSCREEN to show that they have paid their road tax —see picture at CAR

tax e·va·sion /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] illegally paying less tax than one should e.g. by not declaring certain income —compare TAX AVOIDANCE

tax ex·ile /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person who leaves a country to avoid paying high taxes, and goes to live in another country. Such people are usu. POP STARS, film stars, or other people who earn large amounts of money.

tax-free /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj, adv* free from taxation: *She earns £16,000 a year tax-free in her job overseas.* | *a tax-free salary*

tax ha·ven /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a place where many people, esp. rich people **(tax exiles)**, choose to live because it has very low rates of tax

taxis



a New York cab



a London taxi



a British taxi

tax·i[1] /ˈtæksi/ also **tax·i·cab** /ˈtæksikæb/ *fml*, **cab**– *n* a car with a driver that can be hired for a charge that is based on the length and time of the journey: *I came out of the station and* **hailed a taxi.** (=waved at one to make it stop) | *It's quicker by taxi.* —see TRANSPORT (USAGE)

taxi[2] *v* [I] (of a plane) to move slowly along the ground before taking off or after landing: *The plane taxied along the runway.*

tax·i·der·mist /ˈtæksˌdɜːmˌst‖-ɜːr-/ *n* a person whose job is taxidermy

tax·i·der·my /ˈtæksˌdɜːmi‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] the art of specially cleaning, preparing, and preserving the skins of fish, birds, and animals, and filling them with special material so that they look like living creatures

tax·i·me·ter /ˈtæksiˌmiːtəʳ/ *n* a small machine fitted in taxis to calculate the charge for each journey

tax·ing /ˈtæksɪŋ/ *adj* needing great effort; DEMANDING: *Such a long rough journey would be very taxing for an old man.*

tax in·spect·or /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* a government official whose job it is to decide how much a person, company, etc. must pay in taxes

taxi rank /ˈ·· ·/ also **taxi stand** ‖ **cabstand** *esp. AmE*– *n* a place where taxis wait to be hired

tax·man /ˈtæksmæn/ *n* **-men** /men/ **1** [C] a tax collector or tax inspector **2** [*the*] *esp. BrE* the government department that collects taxes: *George loves to hate the taxman*

tax·on·o·my /tækˈsɒnəmi‖-ˈsɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* the system or process of putting things, esp. plants and animals, into various classes according to their natural relationships

tax·pay·er /ˈtæks-peɪəʳ/ *n* any person or organization that has a legal duty to pay tax: *The opposition parties have condemned the new airport as a waste of taxpayers' money.*

tax re·lief /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* [U] not having to pay a tax esp. the INCOME TAX one usu. pays on a certain amount of the money one earns: *I get tax relief on the first two thousand pounds of my income.*

tax shel·ter /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a plan or method which allows one legally to avoid paying tax

tax thresh·old /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the level of income at which one starts to pay tax

tax write-off /ˈ· ˌ· ·/ *n AmE, infml* something that is TAX DEDUCTIBLE, such as a gift to CHARITY, or a loss taken in a financial deal

tax year /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a year at the end of which one's taxable income is calculated. In Britain the tax year begins on April 6th. In the US it begins on January 1st.

Tay /teɪ/ [*the*] a river in E Central Scotland which enters the sea at Dundee and flows through Tayside

Tay Bridge /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a bridge over the river Tay at Dundee

Tay·lor /ˈteɪləʳ/, **A J P** (1906–90) an English HISTORIAN, who became popularly known through his appearances on television

Taylor, Elizabeth also **Liz** /lɪz/ *infml*– (1932–) an American film ACTRESS, born in London. She began making films at the age of ten, but is perhaps at least as well known for her marriages, of which there have been eight (two to Richard Burton). —see colour picture on page 228

Taylor, James (1948–) an American singer of popular music known for his many love songs

Taylor, Zach·a·ry /ˈzækəri/ (1784–1850) an American soldier and politician. He was president of the US (1849–50) and was against SLAVERY.

Tay·side /ˈteɪsaɪd/ a REGION in E Scotland whose main city is Dundee

TB /ˌtiː ˈbiː/ *BrE*‖**Tb** *AmE*– *abbrev. for:* TUBERCULOSIS

T-ball , Tee-ball /ˈtiː bɔːl/ *n tdmk* a game like BASEBALL played in the US by young children who hit the ball off a stick (TEE)

T-bill /ˈtiː bɪl/ *AmE abbrev. for* TREASURY BILL

T-bone /ˈtiː bəʊn/ also **T-bone steak** /ˌ· · ˈ·/– *n* a thinly cut piece of BEEF with a T-shaped bone in it

tbs also **T, tbsp**– *n abbrev. for* TABLESPOON (3)

TBS /ˌtiː biː ˈes/ *AmE* the TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM

TCCB /ˌtiː siː siː ˈbiː/ *n* [*the*] the TEST AND COUNTY CRICKET BOARD

TCP /ˌtiː siː ˈpiː/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a liquid ANTISEPTIC

Tchai·kov·sky /tʃaɪˈkɒfski‖-ˈkɔːf-/, **Pe·ter Il·yich** /ˈpiːtəʳ ˈɪlɪtʃ/ (1840–93) a Russian COMPOSER who wrote symphonies (SYMPHONY), BALLETS, and OPERAS. His music is rich, emotional, and often rather sad.

tea /tiː/ *n* **1** [U] a hot brown drink made by pouring boiling water onto leaves of a special kind. It is thought of as a typically British drink: *a cup of tea* | *Do you take milk and sugar in your tea?* **2** [U] the specially treated, dried, and finely cut leaves of an Asian bush used for making tea: *China tea* | *Ceylon tea* **3** [C *usu. pl.*] a cup of tea: *Three teas and a coffee please.* **4** [C;U] BrE a small meal served in the afternoon with a cup of tea: *We have tea at four o'clock.* | *She made sandwiches and a cake for tea.* | *It's teatime!* —see also CREAM TEA, HIGH TEA; see DINNER (USAGE) **5** [U] a drink made by putting leaves or roots of the stated plant in boiling water, sometimes drunk for medicinal purposes: *mint tea* | *camomile tea* —see also BEEF TEA, GREEN TEA **6 not for all the tea in China** *infml* (used when making a refusal): *I wouldn't go back to that job for all the tea in China.* **7 tea and sympathy** a lot of attention and kindness which is not completely sincere and is not followed by practical help: *If Mr Major is serious in his concern for lesbians and gay men and wants to demonstrate that his meeting with Sir Ian McKellen was more than public relations, tea and sympathy, he should announce the repeal of Clause 28 immediately.* —see also **one's cup of tea** (CUP[1])

tea·bag /ˈtiːbæg/ *n* a small paper bag with tea leaves inside which makes enough tea for one person

tea break /ˈ· ·/ also **coffee break**– *n* a short pause from work in the middle of the morning or afternoon for a drink, a rest, something light to eat, etc.

tea cad·dy /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **caddy**– *n* a small box, tin, etc., in which (esp. loose leaf) tea is kept

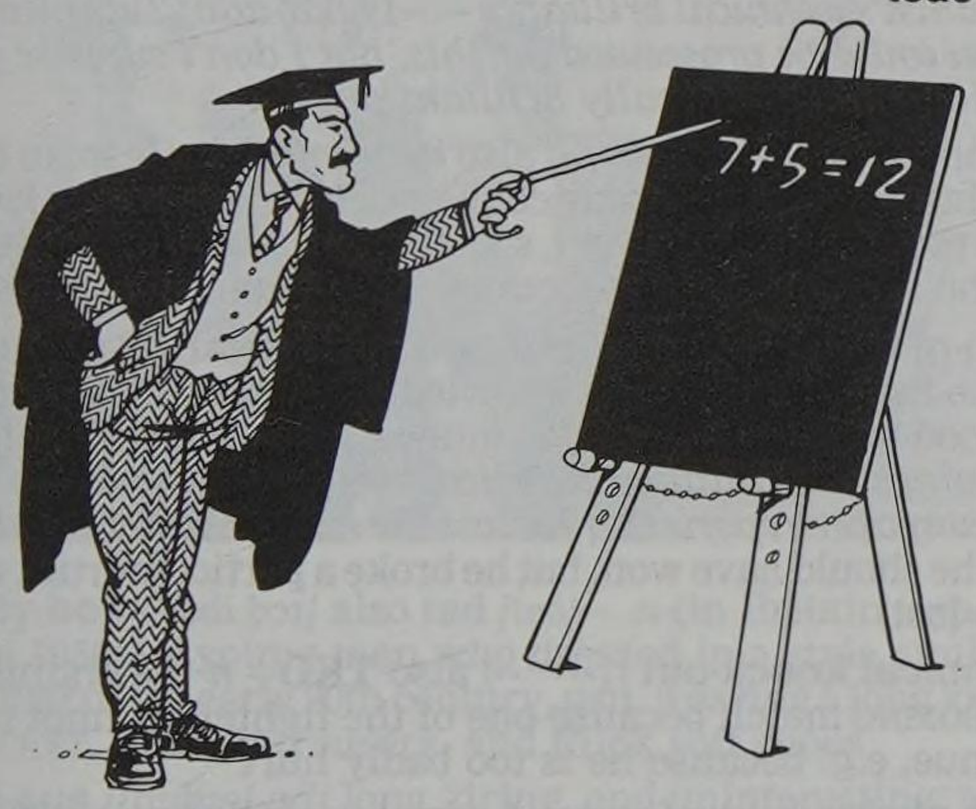
tea·cake /ˈtiːkeɪk/ *n BrE* a small round cake made of a

sweetened breadlike mixture with dried fruit (CURRANTS, RAISINS, etc.) in it, cut in two, and eaten hot or cold with butter

teach /tiːtʃ/ *v* **taught** /tɔːt/ **1** [I;T **(to)**] to give (someone) training or lessons in (a particular subject, how to do something, etc.); pass on knowledge or skill (to): *I teach (chemistry) at the local junior school.* | *She prefers teaching older pupils.* | *I want to learn to drive; will you teach me?* | *She teaches English to foreign students.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *My mother taught me this song.* [+*obj*+*wh-*] *Didn't your parents teach you how to behave in this sort of situation?* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Who taught you to play the piano?* —compare LEARN (1) **2** [T] to (try to) make known and accepted: *Christianity teaches humility.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Experience teaches us our limitations.* **3** [T+*obj*+*to-v*] *infml* to show (someone) the bad results of doing something, so that they will not do it again: *"I got wet through." "That'll teach you to go out without an umbrella."* | (in threats) *I'll teach you to be rude to me!* **4 He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches** *quote* a phrase from *Maxims for Revolutionists* by George Bernard Shaw **5 teach one's grandmother to suck eggs** *BrE infml* to give advice to someone who knows all about the matter already **5 teach someone a lesson** to show someone the bad results of doing something, so that they will not do it again —~**able** *adj*

▷ USAGE Compare **teach, instruct, train,** and **coach. Teach** is the general word for helping a person or group of people to learn something. If you **instruct** (rather formal) a person or group of people you pass on knowledge to them, but you cannot be sure that they have learned anything: *He* **instructed** *us in Latin, but some of us made little progress.* You can **train** a person or group of people up to a necessary level in a particular skill or profession, and you can even **train** an animal: *It takes several years to* **train** *a doctor.* | *to* **train** *a dog to do tricks.* You can **coach** a person or group of people, often outside the ordinary educational system, such as in sports, and often for a particular examination which they find difficult and which they must pass: *Because he failed the chemistry examination at school, he had to be* **coached** *in chemistry at a private educational institution.*◁

teacher



teach·er /ˈtiːtʃəʳ/ *n* a person who teaches, esp. as a profession: *My husband's a history teacher at the local school.* | *the University Teachers' Association*

teacher's pet /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n infml, usu. derog* (usu. said by children about one child in the class) the teacher's favourite, or believed favourite, student, often the subject of jealousy amongst the other students

teacher train·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the process of training people how to teach in schools: *a teacher training course* | *a teacher training college*

tea chest /ˈ· ·/ *n* a large wooden box in which tea is packed, often used afterwards for storing things

teach-in /ˈ· ·/ *n* an exchange of opinions about a subject of interest, held e.g. in a college by students, teachers, guest speakers, etc.

teach·ing /ˈtiːtʃɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the work or profession of a teacher: *She's planning to go into teaching.* (=become a teacher) **2** also **teachings** *pl.*— that which is taught, esp. the moral, political, or religious beliefs taught by a person of historical importance: *Christians try to follow Christ's teaching|teachings.* | *the teachings of Freud*

teaching hos·pi·tal /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a hospital where medical students can practise medicine under the guidance of experienced doctors

teaching prac·tice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE*‖**student teaching** *AmE*— *n* [U] a period of teaching children in a school, done by a person who is training to be a teacher

teach your·self book /ˌ· ·ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a book that teaches a particular subject or skill: *Teach yourself typing|Japanese*

tea cloth /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* a small cloth for spreading over a small table from which tea is to be served **2** a TEA TOWEL

tea co·sy /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a thick covering put over a teapot to keep the contents hot

tea·cup /ˈtiːkʌp/ *n* a cup in which tea is served —see also **storm in a teacup** (STORM¹)

tea·gar·den /ˈtiːˌgɑːdn‖-ɑːr-/ *n* **1** an outdoor restaurant where drinks and light meals are served **2** a large area of land on which tea is grown; tea PLANTATION

tea·house /ˈtiːhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ a special house in China or Japan where tea is served, often with great ceremony

teak /tiːk/ *n* [C;U] (a large tree from India, Burma, and Malaysia that gives) a very hard yellowish brown wood that does not decay and is used for making esp. ships and good quality furniture

teal /tiːl/ *n* **teal** a small wild duck

teal blue /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* a dark greenish blue

tea·leaf /ˈtiːliːf/ *n* **-leaves** /liːvz/ **1** any of the very finely cut pieces of leaf used for making tea, esp. as left in a teapot or teacup after tea has been drunk **2** *BrE humor sl* a thief

team¹ /tiːm/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a group of people who work, act, or esp. play together: *John's in the school hockey team.* | *Our team is|are winning.* | *a team of researchers* | *The government is led by an able team of experienced ministers.* | *Cricket is a* **team game.** | *I didn't do it on my own; it was a* **team effort.** **2** two or more animals pulling the same vehicle: *The carriage was drawn by a team of four white horses.* | *a team of oxen* —see also PAIR¹ (4)

team² *v*

team up *phr v* [I **(with)**] to work together for a shared purpose: *I teamed up with Jane to do the job.*

team-mate /ˈ· ·/ *n* someone who plays in the same team as oneself

team spir·it /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] willingness to work with other people as part of a team: *Come on John, show some team spirit.*

team·ster /ˈtiːmstəʳ/ *n AmE* a person who drives a TRUCK (=a large road vehicle)

Team·sters /ˈtiːmstəz‖-ərz/ also **Teamsters' U·nion** /ˌ·· ˈ··/— [*the*] the largest TRADE UNION in the US, with almost two million members. It was at the centre of a well-known political and financial SCANDAL in the 1950s, and again in 1988.

team·work /ˈtiːmwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] the ability of a group of people to work together effectively; (work done through) combined effort

tea par·ty /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a social gathering (usu. made up of women) in the afternoon, at which tea is drunk —see also BOSTON TEA PARTY

tea·pot /ˈtiːpɒt‖-pɑːt/ *n* a container with a handle and a SPOUT (=bent pouring pipe), in which tea is made and served —see picture at POT

tear¹ /tɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a drop of salty liquid that flows from the eye, esp. because of pain or sadness: *I* **burst into tears** (=suddenly started crying) *when I heard the bad news.* | *Few of us* **shed any tears** *when he left.* (=we were not sorry) | *He* **reduced** *me* **to tears.** (=made me cry) | *Tears rolled down her cheeks|There were tears in her eyes as she waved goodbye.* | *tears of joy|gratitude|laughter* **2 in tears** crying: *The little girl was in tears because she'd lost her mother.* —see also CROCODILE TEARS

tear² /teəʳ/ *v* **tore** /tɔːʳ/, **torn** /tɔːn‖tɔːrn/ **1** [T] to pull apart or into pieces by force, intentionally or unintentionally, esp. so as to leave irregular edges: *I tore my sleeve on a thorn.* | *an old torn dress* | *She tore his letter into little pieces.* | *I had to tear the photo out of the newspaper because I couldn't find the scissors.* | *She tore a hole in her dress* (=made a hole by tearing) *when she climbed over*

the wall. —see BREAK (USAGE) **2** [I] to become torn: *This material tears easily, so be careful when you wear it.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to remove by sudden force: *Several trees were torn up* (=from the ground) *in last night's storm.* | *Our roof was torn off by the hurricane.* | *He tore off his clothes and dived in to save the drowning child.* | (fig.) *unhappy children torn from their parents* **4** [T (APART, **between**) *usu. pass.*] to divide by the pull of opposing forces; destroy the peace of: *a country torn apart by war* | *I'm torn between loyalty to my family and my love for Susan.* (=I can't decide which to obey) **5** [I+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* to move excitedly with great speed: *The excited children tore noisily down the street.* | *He tore out of the house when he realized how late he was.* | *I'm in a* **tearing hurry.** (=a great hurry) **6 tear someone limb from limb** *lit or humor* to beat or attack (someone) very severely **7 tear one's hair (out)** to be very excited or anxious: *sitting in a traffic jam on the way to the airport, tearing my hair out* **8 tear oneself away** to leave unwillingly: *He had to tear himself away from the party to catch the last bus home.* **9 tear someone off a strip/tear a strip off someone** *BrE infml* to express severe disapproval of someone; REPRIMAND **10 tear someone's heart out** to fill someone with sadness **11 tear something to shreds/pieces** *infml* to find many faults in something; judge extremely severely: *The critics tore his new novel to shreds.* **12 That's torn it!** *BrE infml* That has ruined everything! That is very unfortunate!: *That's torn it! I've shut my key in the car.*

tear sthg.↔**down** *phr v* [T] (esp. of a building) to pull down, esp. violently; destroy: *These beautiful old Georgian houses are being torn down to make way for a new road.*

tear into sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *infml* to attack violently with blows or words; LAY **into**

tear sthg.↔**off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to write or produce rapidly: *The secretary tore off two letters in five minutes.*

tear sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to destroy completely by tearing: *The magician tore up a £5 note and then made it whole again.* | (fig.) *I believe the government intends to tear up its agreement with the unions.*

tear[3] /teəʳ/ *n* a torn place in cloth, paper, etc. —see also WEAR AND TEAR

tear·a·way /ˈteərəweɪ/ *n BrE infml* a young person who behaves in a wild and uncontrolled way (mainly used by older people and with some fondness): *The young tearaway's in trouble with the police again.*

tear·drop /ˈtɪədrɒp‖ˈtɪərdrɑːp/ *n* a single tear: *A teardrop ran down her cheek.*

tear·ful /ˈtɪəfəl‖ˈtɪər-/ *adj* **1** full of tears; crying: *The mother was trying to comfort the tearful little girl.* | *a tearful farewell* **2** likely to cry: *These sad love stories always make me feel a bit tearful.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

tear gas /ˈtɪə gæs‖ˈtɪər-/ also **CS gas**— *n* [U] a stinging chemical gas that causes blindness for a short time by making the eyes produce tears. It is used by police to control crowds: *The police used tear gas to disperse the crowd.* **tear-gas** *v* [T] **-ss-**

tear·jerk·er /ˈtɪəˌdʒɜːkəʳ‖ˈtɪərˌdʒɜːr-/ *n infml* a very sad book, film, play, etc., intended to make people cry

tea·room /ˈtiːruːm, -rʊm/ *n* a restaurant where tea and light meals are served

tease[1] /tiːz/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make jokes about or laugh at unkindly or playfully: *At school the other children always teased me because I was fat.* | *Don't take it seriously — he was only teasing.* **2** [T] to annoy (an animal or person) on purpose: *Stop teasing the cat!* **3** [T] *esp. AmE for* BACKCOMB

tease sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] to remove, straighten, or loosen carefully and patiently with the fingers: *She teased out the knots in her hair.*

tease[2] *n infml* **1** someone who teases a lot or likes teasing: *He's a terrible tease.* **2** someone who excites another esp. sexually, with no intention of satisfying them

tea·sel, -zel, -zle /ˈtiːzəl/ *n* **1** a plant with prickly leaves and flowers **2** a dried flower from this plant, used in former times for brushing cloth so as to give it a soft surface

teas·er /ˈtiːzəʳ/ *n* **1** *infml* a difficult question **2** a TEASE[2] (2)

tea ser·vice /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **tea set** /ˈ· ·/— *n* a matching set of cups, plates, teapot, etc., used in serving tea

tea shop /ˈ· ·/ *n* a TEAROOM

tea·spoon /ˈtiːspuːn/ *n* **1** a small spoon used for mixing sugar into tea, coffee, etc. **2** [(**of**)] also **tea·spoon·ful** /-fʊl/ (*pl.* **-spoonfuls, -spoonsful**)— the amount held by a teaspoon —see picture at SPOON

teat /tiːt/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **nipple** *AmE*— a specially shaped rubber object with a hole in it, fixed to the end of a bottle so that a baby can suck from it **2** an animal's NIPPLE

tea tow·el /ˈ· ˌ··/ *BrE*‖**dish towel** *AmE*— *n* a cloth for drying cups, plates, etc., after they have been washed —see picture at KITCHEN

tea trol·ley /ˈ· ˌ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **tea wag·on** *esp. AmE*— *n* a small table on wheels, from which food and/or drinks are served —see picture at TROLLEY

Teb·bit /ˈtebɪt/, **Lord Norman** (1931–) a British Conservative politician who was CHAIRMAN of the party (1985–87). He was hurt in a bomb attack on the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1985. He is associated with the phrase "get on your bike" after saying in a speech that people with no jobs should go out (on their bicycles) and look for work.

TEC /tek/ *n* Training and Enterprise Council; an organization paid for by the government whose aim is to help people to TRAIN for new jobs (esp. people without a job) or to start or run their own business

tech /tek/ *n infml for* TECHNICAL COLLEGE

tech·ni·cal /ˈteknɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] having or giving special and usu. practical knowledge, esp. of an industrial or scientific subject: *technical experts* | *technical training* —compare ACADEMIC[1] (2) **2 a** of or related to such a subject. Technical words or phrases are marked *tech* in this dictionary: *The flight was delayed owing to technical reasons.* (=a fault in the engine or other machinery) | *"Precipitation" is a technical term used by weather scientists for "rain".* **b** needing special knowledge in order to be understood: *This book is too technical for me.* **3** [*no comp.*] according to an (unreasonably) exact acceptance of the rules: *The result was a technical defeat for the government, but otherwise of limited importance.* | *a technical infringement of the rules* —see also TECHNICALITY **4** of or related to TECHNIQUE: *the pianist's technical brilliance* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv*: *Technically, you could be prosecuted for this, but I don't suppose you will be.* | *a technically brilliant pianist.*

technical col·lege /ˈ··· ˌ··/ also **tech** *infml*— *n* (esp. in Britain) a college providing courses (usu. not to degree level) in practical subjects, art, social studies, etc., for students who have left school —compare POLYTECHNIC, UNIVERSITY

tech·ni·cal·i·ty /ˌteknəˈkælətiː/ *n* a small detail or rule, esp. one that needs special knowledge in order to be understood or that may seem unnecessary: *The general explained the military technicalities of the matter to the newspaper reporters.* | *He lost the race on a technicality.* (=he should have won, but he broke a particular rule, and so lost)

technical knock·out /ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **TKO**— *n* the ending of a BOXING match because one of the fighters cannot continue, e.g. because he is too badly hurt

tech·ni·cian /tekˈnɪʃən/ *n* **1** a highly skilled scientific or industrial worker: *a laboratory technician* **2** someone who has a good technique

Tech·ni·col·or /ˈteknɪkʌləʳ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a colour film process used for the cinema in which the three PRIMARY COLOURS are recorded on separate films and then mixed together: *filmed in Technicolor*

tech·nique /tekˈniːk/ *n* [C;U] (a) method of doing something that needs skill, esp. in art, music, literature, etc.: *If you want to learn to paint, I suggest you study Raphael's technique.* | *new techniques for producing special effects in films* | *sophisticated modern printing techniques* | (*humor*) *He has no trouble getting lots of girlfriends; I wonder what his technique is.*

tech·no·crat /ˈteknəkræt/ *n often derog* a highly skilled scientific specialist in charge of the organization of a country, industry, etc.

tech·no-fear /ˈteknəʊ ˌfɪəʳ/ *n* [U] *infml* fear of things which are very technical and complicated, e.g. computers: *At one time or another all of us feel threatened by techno-fear.*

tech·no·lo·gi·cal /ˌteknəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* related to

technology: *The development of the steam engine was the greatest technological advance of the 19th century.* | *the rapid pace of technological change* — ~**ly** /kli/ *adv* : *technologically backward countries*

tech·nol·o·gist /tekˈnɒlədʒɨst‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* a specialist in technology

tech·nol·o·gy /tekˈnɒlədʒi‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a branch of) knowledge dealing with scientific and industrial methods and their practical use in industry; practical science: *a high level of technology* | *agricultural/nuclear technology* | *The system uses advanced computer and satellite technologies.* **2** [U] machinery, methods, etc., based on this knowledge: *The printing plant uses the very latest technology.* | *We already have the technology to do this.* —see also INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NEW TECHNOLOGY

technology trans·fer /ˌ···ˈ··· ˌ···/ *n* [U] the giving or selling of modern equipment such as computers, or the knowledge necessary to operate the equipment, by Western countries to developing countries

tec·ton·ic plate /tekˌtɒnɪk ˈpleɪt‖-ˌtɑː-/ *n* any of the large, solid plates that make up the solid surface of the Earth, and which support the land

Te·cum·seh /tɪˈkʌmsə/ (1765?–1813) a Native American man, of the Shawnee TRIBE. who led a group of tribes to defend their lands against white settlers and the US army, who were trying to take over the land — see also NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

ted·dy bear /ˈtedi beəʳ/ also teddy– *n* a toy bear filled with soft material, which is a very common British and American child's toy

teddy bear



Teddy Bears' Pic·nic /ˌ··· · ˈ··/, **The** a popular song for children in the 1950s

teddy boys



teddy boy /ˈtedi bɔɪ/ also **ted** /ted/– *n* (in Britain, esp. in the 1950s) a young man who dressed in a style similar to that of the early 20th century, usu. wearing a long loose JACKET, narrow trousers, and thick soft shoes

te·di·ous /ˈtiːdiəs/ *adj* long, tiring, and uninteresting; BORING: *a tedious book/speaker/lecture* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

te·di·um /ˈtiːdiəm/ *n* [U] tediousness

tee[1] /tiː/ *n* (in GOLF) (the area surrounding) a small pile of sand or a specially-shaped plastic or wooden object from which the ball is first driven at the beginning of each hole —see picture at GOLF

tee[2] *v*

tee off *phr v* [I] (in GOLF) to drive the ball from a tee

tee (sthg.↔) **up** *phr v* [I;T] (in GOLF) to prepare to hit (the ball) by placing it on a tee —see picture at GOLF

Tee-ball /ˈtiː bɔːl/ *n* T-BALL

teed off /ˌtiːd ˈɒf‖-ˈɔːf/ *adj AmE, sl* angry or annoyed

teem /tiːm/ *v* [I (DOWN, **with**)] *infml* (of liquid) to flow or pour very heavily: *The rain teemed down for hours.* [*it*+I] *It's absolutely teeming (with rain).*

teem with sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] (of a place) to be full of (esp. a certain type of creature): *This river teems with all kinds of fish in summer.*

teem·ing /ˈtiːmɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *esp. lit* **1** (of a place) full of creatures: *the teeming jungle* **2 teeming shore** *quote* a phrase taken from the words written on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor —see STATUE OF LIBERTY

teen /tiːn/ *n, adj sl* TEENAGER

teen·age /ˈtiːneɪdʒ/ also **teen·aged** /ˈtiːneɪdʒd/– *adj* [A] of, for, or being a teenager: *teenage fashions* | *their teenage daughter*

Teenage Mu·tant He·ro Tur·tles /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [P] the HEROes of an extremely popular but short-lived collection of books, films and CARTOONS for children in the early 1990s. They had their origin in the US as the **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, a group of green TURTLES known for fighting violently, and gave rise to a very successful industry of Turtle clothing, toys, food, and many other things.

teen·ag·er /ˈtiːneɪdʒəʳ/ *n* a young person of between 13 and 19 years old —see CHILD (USAGE)

teens /tiːnz/ *n* [P] the period of one's life between and including the ages of 13 and 19: *She's in her teens.* | *He's in his late teens.* (=about 16-19 years old)

tee·ny /ˈtiːni/ *adj infml* very small; TINY

tee·ny·bop·per /ˈtiːniˌbɒpəʳ‖-ˌbɑː-/ *n infml, becoming old-fash* a young person between the ages of about 9 and 14, esp. a girl, who is very interested in popular music and the bands who play it, the latest fashions, etc.

tee·ny wee·ny /ˌtiːni ˈwiːni◂/ also **teen·sy ween·sy** /ˌtiːnzi ˈwiːnzi◂/, **teeny, teensy**– *adj infml* (used esp. by or to children) very small

tee·pee /ˈtiːpiː/ *n* a TEPEE —see colour picture on page 358

Tees /tiːz/ [*the*] a river in NE England which passes through the heavily industrial area known as Teeside

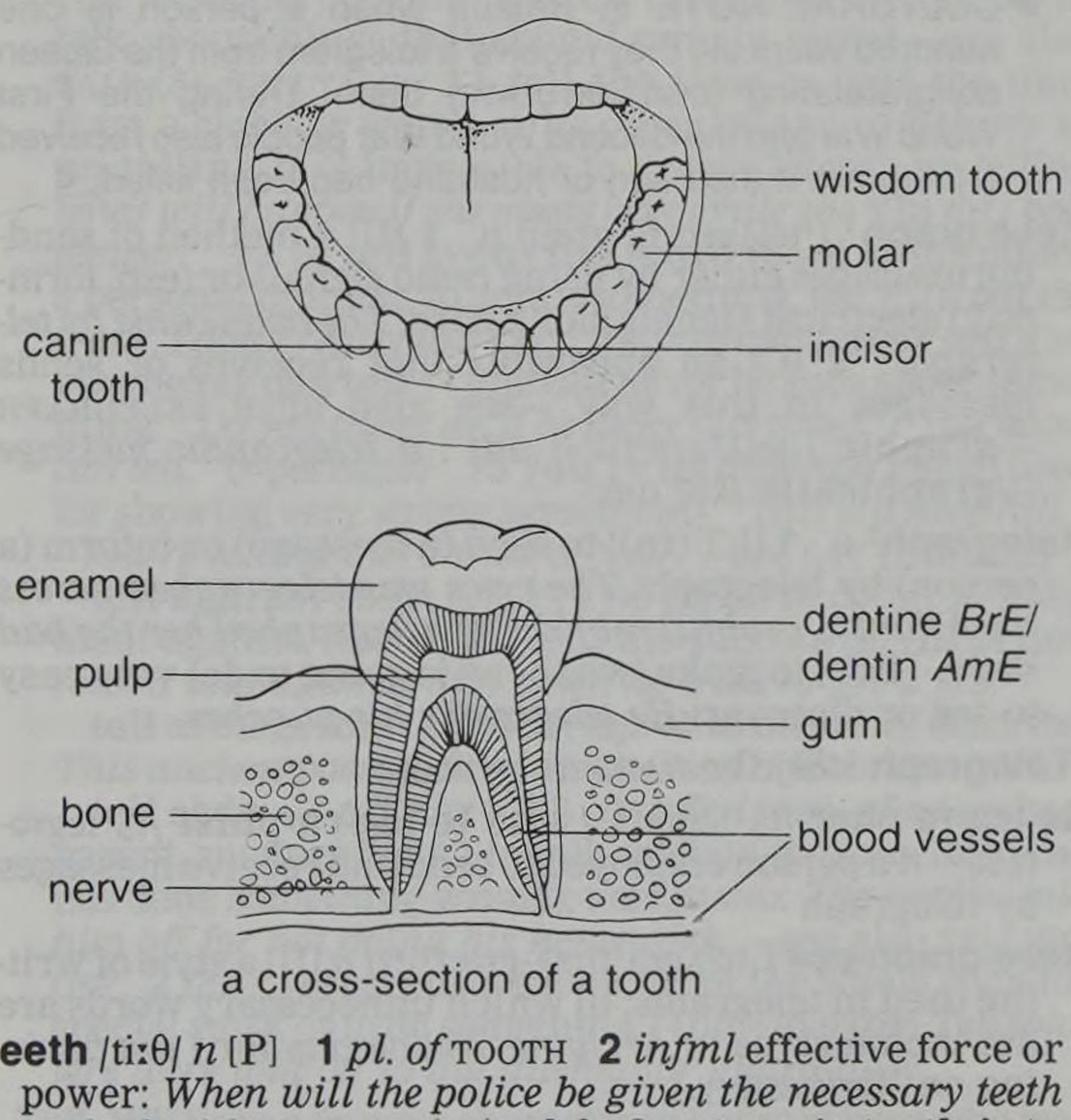
tee shirt /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a T-SHIRT

Tee·side , Teesside /ˈtiːzsaɪd/ a large, heavily industrial area in NE England

tee·ter /ˈtiːtəʳ/ *v* [I (**on**)] to stand or move unsteadily, as if about to fall: *She teetered along in her high-heeled shoes.* | (fig.) *The government is* **teetering on the brink** *of defeat* (=is close to being defeated) *over its latest plans.*

teeter-tot·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* SEESAW

teeth



a cross-section of a tooth

teeth /tiːθ/ *n* [P] **1** *pl. of* TOOTH **2** *infml* effective force or power: *When will the police be given the necessary teeth to deal with young criminals?* **3 get one's teeth into** *infml* to do (a job) very actively, purposefully, and with interest **4 in the teeth of** against the strength of; in spite of opposition from: *The government persisted in introducing the new measures in the teeth of public opinion.* **5 set someone's 'teeth on edge** to give someone the unpleasant sensation caused by certain acid tastes or high sounds: *The noise of the chalk scraping on the blackboard sets my teeth on edge.* —see also **armed to the teeth** (ARMED), **take the bit between one's teeth** (BIT[2]), **cut one's teeth on** (CUT[1]), **kick in the teeth** (KICK[1]), **lie in one's teeth** (LIE[3]), **show one's teeth** (SHOW[1]), **by the skin of one's teeth** (SKIN[1])

teethe /tiːð/ *v* [I *usu. in progressive forms*] (esp. of a baby) to grow teeth

teething troub·les /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [P] problems happening during the early stages of an activity or operation: *We're having a few teething troubles with the new computer.*

tee·to·tal /ˌtiːˈtəʊtl◂/ *adj* never drinking alcohol, or opposed to the drinking of it

tee·to·tal·ler *BrE* ‖ **-taler** *esp. AmE* /tiːˈtəʊtələʳ/ *n* a person who never drinks alcohol

TEFL /ˈtefəl/ *n* [U] Teaching English as a Foreign Language; the teaching of English to people whose first language is not English —compare EFL, ESL, ESOL, TESL, TESOL

Tef·lon /ˈteflɒn‖-lɑːn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a plastic which things do not easily stick to, and which is often used in making cooking pans, so that they can be easily cleaned

▶CULTURAL NOTE People sometimes use the word Teflon to describe someone who does something wrong but cannot be proved to have done it, or to describe someone whom people still like or respect even when that person has done something wrong or silly. For example, in the US some people called President Reagan the Teflon president because he was still popular even when the country's debts were growing and when the Iran-Contra affair was becoming known: *Teflon Don John Gotti turns to Velcro as he is convicted of murder, racketeering, and other charges.*◀

Tehe·ran , Tehran /ˌteəˈrɑːn‖teˈrɑːn/ the capital and largest city of Iran, and the industrial centre of the country

Tel A·viv /ˌtel əˈviːv/ the second largest city of Israel which was at one time also the capital

tele- see WORD FORMATION

tel·e·cast /ˈtelikɑːst‖-kæst/ *n* a broadcast on television

tel·e·com·mu·ni·ca·tions /ˌtelikəmjuːnɨˈkeɪʃənz/ *n* [P] the process or business of receiving or sending messages by telephone, radio, television, or telegraph: *great improvements in telecommunications | the telecommunications industry | a telecommunications satellite*

Tel·e·com Tow·er /ˌtelɨkɒm ˈtaʊəʳ‖-kɑːm-/ [*the*] a tall building in London which used to be called the **Post Office Tower** and on which are several TRANSMITTERS. British Telecom has an office there —see colour map on page 817

tel·e·gram /ˈtelɨgræm/ ‖ also **wire** *AmE*— *n* (a piece of paper with) a message sent by telegraph: *We informed them by telegram that we would be arriving early.*

▶CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, when a person is one hundred years old they receive a telegram from the Queen congratulating (CONGRATULATE) them. During the First World War and the Second World War people also received a telegram if their son or husband had been killed.◀

tel·e·graph[1] /ˈtelɨgrɑːf‖-græf/ *n* **1** [U] a method of sending messages either by using radio signals or (esp. formerly) electrical signals along wire: *The news came by telegraph.* **2** [C] an apparatus that receives or sends messages in this way —see also BUSH TELEGRAPH —**-graphic** /ˌtelɨˈgræfɪk◂/ *adj* : *a telegraphic message* —**-graphically** /kli/ *adv*

telegraph[2] *v* **1** [I;T **(to)**] to send (a message) or inform (a person) by telegraph: *The news was telegraphed across the Atlantic.* [*+obj(i)+obj(d)*] *We telegraphed her the bad news.* **2** [T] to make (what one is going to do) very easy to see or discover: *He telegraphs his punches.*

Telegraph [*the*] the DAILY TELEGRAPH

te·leg·ra·pher /tɨˈlegrəfəʳ/ also **te·leg·ra·phist** /tɨˈlegrəfɨst/— *n* a person employed to send and receive messages by telegraph

tel·e·graph·ese /ˌtelɨgrəˈfiːz‖-græfˈiːz/ *n* [U] a style of writing used in telegrams, in which unnecessary words are not included (as in *Arriving Wednesday* for *I am arriving on Wednesday.*)

telegraph pole /ˈ··· ·/ also **telegraph post** *BrE*‖**telephone pole** *AmE*— *n* a tall wooden pole for supporting telephone wires —compare UTILITY POLE

telegraph wire /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a wire for carrying telegraphic messages

te·leg·ra·phy /tɨˈlegrəfi/ *n* [U] *tech* the sending of messages by electrical signals

tel·e·ki·ne·sis /ˌtelikɪˈniːsɨs, -kaɪ-/ *n* [U] *tech* the moving of solid objects by the power of the mind alone

tel·e·mar·ket·ing /ˈteliˌmɑːkɨtɪŋ‖-ˌmɑːr-/ *n* [U] the practice of telephoning people to find out if they would be interested in buying something —compare TELESALES

tel·e·mes·sage /ˈtelimesɪdʒ/ *n tdmk* a form of TELEGRAM, sent by telephone or TELEX through the Post Office

te·lem·e·try /tɨˈlemɨtri/ *n* [U] *tech* the collection of information by a special instrument (a **telemeter**) that measures quantities and sends the results by radio to a distant place

tel·e·ol·o·gy /ˌteliˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the belief that all things and events were specially planned to fulfil a purpose —**-gist** *n* —**-gical** /ˌteliəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* —**-gically** /kli/ *adv*

tel·e·path·ic /ˌtelɨˈpæθɪk◂/ *adj* **1** *infml* able to practise telepathy: *How did you know I was going to say that? You must be telepathic!* **2** of, sent by, or like telepathy: *telepathic messages* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

te·lep·a·thy /tɨˈlepəθi/ *n* [U] the sending of thoughts, messages, etc., from one person's mind to another's without the ordinary use of the senses

tel·e·phone[1] /ˈtelɨfəʊn/ also **phone**— *n* **1** an apparatus or system for sending or receiving sound, esp. speech, over long distances by electrical means: *If the telephone rings, can you answer it? | Your mother was* **on the telephone** *earlier.* (=she called by telephone) | *I spoke to him* **by telephone/on the telephone.** | *Are you* **on the telephone?** (=have you got one?) | *What's your telephone number? | a threatening telephone call | I'm sure my telephone's being tapped.* **2** the part of a telephone into which one speaks; RECEIVER: *I was so angry with him I slammed down the telephone.*

▷USAGE **Telephone** can be used as a noun or a verb, and so can the short form **phone.** If you want to **telephone** your mother (or **call** her, **ring** her **(up), give** her **a ring**), you **dial** her **(phone) number,** which can be found in the **phone book** or **directory.** If it is a long-distance call, you may have to ask the **operator** to connect you. The phone will **ring,** and if your mother is at home she will **answer** by picking up the **receiver.** If she is busy she may ask you to **call back** later. If she doesn't want to speak to you, she may **hang up** (=replace the receiver). If she is already **on the phone** when you call her, her number is **engaged** (*BrE*) ‖ **busy** (*AmE*). A telephone in a public place is a **phone box** or **call box** *BrE* ‖ **phone booth** *AmE*.◁

telephone[2] also **phone**— *v* [I;T] **1** to speak to (someone) by telephone or send (a message) by telephone: *He telephoned to say he'd been delayed. | If you telephone your order to the shop they'll deliver it.* **2** to (try to) become connected with (a place or person) by telephone: *I've been telephoning all morning, but I haven't been able to speak to the doctor. | You can't telephone Glasgow directly from here; you have to go through the operator.*

telephone box /ˈ··· ˌ·/ also **call box, phone box** *BrE* ‖ **phone booth, telephone booth** *esp. AmE*— *n BrE* a small hut or enclosure containing a telephone for use by the public

telephone call /ˈ··· ·/ also **phone call, call** *n* a call made on a telephone: *a threatening telephone call. | My answering machine showed that I'd had three phone calls while I was out.*

telephone di·rec·to·ry /ˈ··· ·ˌ···/ *n fml for* PHONE BOOK

telephone ex·change /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ *n* a central place, usu. a building, where telephone connections are made — compare SWITCHBOARD

telephone number /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* **1** the number you have to DIAL to connect with a particular telephone: *What's your telephone number?* **2 telephone numbers** *infml* a very large amount of money. *I don't know how much he earns, but we're certainly* **talking telephone numbers.**

te·leph·o·nist /tɨˈlefənɨst/ *n BrE* a person who makes telephone connections at a telephone exchange or SWITCHBOARD

te·le·pho·to lens /ˌtelɨfəʊtəʊ ˈlenz/ *n* a special camera LENS that makes it possible to take pictures of distant things as if they were close

tel·e·print·er /ˈtelɨˌprɪntəʳ/ also **tel·e·type·writ·er** /ˌtelɨˈtaɪpraɪtəʳ/ *esp. AmE*— *n* a machine with a KEYBOARD for typing TELEX messages and a printer for printing messages received

Tel·e·prompt·er /ˈtelɨprɒmptəʳ‖-prɑːmp-/ *n tdmk* a machine that unrolls lines of enlarged writing, placed in front of someone appearing on television so that they can read it yet appear to be speaking naturally

tel·e·sales /ˈteliseɪlz/ also **teleselling**— *n* [U] the practice of telephoning people in order to sell them things: *I think*

she works in telesales. —compare TELEMARKETING

tel·e·scope[1] /'telɨskəʊp/ *n* a tubelike scientific instrument that makes distant objects look nearer and larger —see also RADIO TELESCOPE; compare BINOCULARS, MICROSCOPE

telescope[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) become shorter in length or time: *The two buses telescoped together in the collision.* | *For the purposes of the film, three months' action is telescoped into two hours.* **2** [I] to become shorter by one part sliding over another: *This instrument will telescope small enough to fit into this box.*

tel·e·scop·ic /ˌtelɨ'skɒpɪk◂‖-'skɑː-/ *adj* **1** made of parts that slide one over another so that the whole can be made shorter: *The tripod has telescopic legs.* **2** of or like a telescope: *a telescopic lens* **3** seen or obtained by means of a telescope: *a telescopic picture of the moon*

tel·e·sell·ing /'teliselɪŋ/ *n* [U] TELESALES

Tel·e·tex /'teliteks/ *n tdmk* **1** [U] an internationally standardized system for sending messages between computers and related equipment over telephone lines. It is faster and has more features than TELEX, which it may one day replace. **2** [C] a message received or sent in this way —compare FAX[2]

tel·e·text /'telitekst/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) a system of broadcasting written information (e.g. news) on television — see also CEEFAX, ORACLE

tel·e·van·ge·lis·m /ˌtelɪ'vændʒəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] the use of television programmes to persuade people to become Christians common in the US

►CULTURAL NOTE For many people, televangelism has associations with emotional language and attempts to obtain money from those watching, not always for honest purposes.◄

tel·e·van·ge·list /ˌtelɪ'vændʒɨlɨst/ also **tv evangelist, television e·van·ge·list** /ˌ···· ·'···/— *n* someone, usu. a Protestant Christian, who talks about religion on television in an EVANGELICAL way. Common in the US, some have raised very large amounts of money for their churches in this way, though not all ask for money. Recently, some televangelists have been found guilty of using the money they raised for non-religious purposes, and of behaving in non-religious ways.

tel·e·vise /'telɨvaɪz/ *v* [T] to broadcast by television: *The President's news conference was televised.*

tel·e·vi·sion /'telɨˌvɪʒən, ˌtelɨ'vɪʒən◂/ also **TV, telly** *BrE infml*— *n* **1** [C] also **television set** /··'·· ·, '···· ·/ *fml*— a boxlike apparatus with a SCREEN that receives broadcast signals and turns them into pictures and sound: *a colour|black-and-white television* —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** [U] (the watching of) the shows received by a television: *The children watch far too much television.* | *the television news* **3** [U] **a** the method of broadcasting pictures and sound by means of electrical waves: *Who invented television?* **b** the business of making and broadcasting shows on a television: *Jean works in television as a reporter.* | *a television producer* **4 on (the) television** broadcast or broadcasting by television: *What's on television tonight?* | *The President spoke to the nation on television.*

television li·cence /'···· ˌ··, ··'·· ˌ··/ *n* (in Britain) an official paper from the government giving permission to use a television in one's home

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain it is illegal to use a television in your home without paying for a yearly licence. Money from licences helps the government to pay for BBC programmes. In the US no licence is necessary; there, advertisements on television pay the television companies.◄

tel·ex[1] /'teleks/ *n* **1** [U] the system of sending messages from one TELEPRINTER to another by telephone line, SATELLITE, etc.: *We'll give you our reply by telex.* **2** [C] a message received or sent in this way: *A telex has just arrived from Hong Kong.* —compare FAX[2], TELETEX (2)

telex[2] *v* [I;T (**to**)] to send (a message, information, news, etc.) to (a person, place, company, etc.) by telex: [+*obj*+*that*] *Telex Australia that prices are to be increased by 10%.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Telex them the news urgently.*

Tel·ford /'telfəd‖-fərd/, **Thomas** (1757–1834) a Scottish ARCHITECT and engineer known for his work on bridges, roads, and CANALS; some of his hundreds of bridges are still in use today

tell /tel/ *v* **told** /təʊld/ **1** [T (**about, of, to**)] to make (something) known in words to (someone); express in words: *If you knew you were going to be late, why didn't you tell me?* | *He's good at telling jokes.* | *Do you always tell the truth?* | *Tell me all about your new job.* | *The boss will have to be told about this.* | *He told us of his wonderful adventures in foreign lands.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I always tell the children a story|tell a story to the children before they go to bed.* [+*obj*+(*that*)] *John told us he'd seen you in town.* [+*obj*+*wh-*] *Could you tell me when it will be ready|how much it will cost?* | *I can't tell you how pleased I am* (=I'm very pleased) *to hear your good news.* | **Don't tell me** *you've forgotten your keys again!* (=I am disappointed or annoyed that you have done this) | *I'm right,* **I tell you!** (=you can be certain that I am right) | (*infml*) **I'll tell you what** (=here is a suggestion) — *let's go out for a drink.* —see also TELL **of** **2** [T] to cause (someone) to know what they must do; order; direct: *That child has got to learn to do what|as he's told.* [+*obj*+*wh-*] *Don't try to tell me how to behave!* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *I told you to get here early, so why are you late?* —see ORDER[2] (USAGE) **3** [T+*obj*+*that|wh-*] to show; make known; INDICATE: *This red light tells you that the machine is ready to use|tells you whether the machine is on or off.* **4** [I;T] to know for certain; recognize or be sure: [+(*that*)]: *It was so dark I couldn't tell it was you.* | *You can tell that it's a camel by the fact that it has a hump.* [+*wh-*] *It's difficult to tell when it will be finished|how long it will take, because we've never done this sort of job before.* [+*obj*+**from**|APART] *I can't tell Jane from Sarah|tell Jane and Sarah apart — they look so alike.* | *"Do you think he's going to win?" "Who can tell?"* **5** [T+*obj*; *usu. in past tense*] to warn or advise: [+(*that*)] *I told you he was a fool, but you wouldn't listen to me.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *I told you not to print that story, and now look what's happened!* | *I won't say* **"I told you so",** *but I did!* **6** [I (**on**)] *fml* to be noticeable; have an effect: *Eventually the tennis champion's greater experience began to tell, and he won easily in the end.* | *All those late nights are beginning to tell on your work.* (=have a bad effect on it) —see also TELLING **7** [I (**on**)] *infml* to speak someone's secret to someone else; inform against: *You won't tell on me, will you — otherwise I'll be in trouble!* **8 all told** altogether; when everyone or everything has been counted **9 tell me another** *infml, esp. humor* I don't believe you; I think you're joking or lying **10 tell tales (out of school)** to talk about things that should remain secret —see also TALE (3), TELLTALE **11 tell the time** to read the time from a clock or watch or by other means **12 there is no telling** it is impossible to know: *There's no telling what will happen if she meets him while she's in this bad temper.* **13 to tell (you) the truth** (used to introduce a personal opinion, to admit something, etc.): *To tell the truth, I don't really like her.* **14 you can never tell** also **you never can tell** — one can never be sure about something: *"Do you think we'll be lucky this time?" "You never can tell."* (=perhaps) **15 you're telling 'me** *infml* (used for showing very strong agreement): *"This is a steep hill." "You're telling me! I need a rest."* —see SAY (USAGE)

tell against sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to count in judgment against, and so prevent the success of: *His prison record told against him when he tried to get a job.*

tell of sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *esp. lit* to mention; describe: *This ancient poem tells of the deeds of a famous warrior.*

tell sbdy. **↔ off** *phr v* [T] **1** *infml* (esp. of a teacher, parent, manager, etc.) to talk angrily to (someone who has done something wrong); REPRIMAND: *The teacher told him off for not doing his homework.* —see also TELLING-OFF **2** *fml* to separate (a group) from the whole body for special work or to do something: [+*obj*+*to-v*|**for**] *Ten soldiers were told off to dig ditches|for guard duty.*

Tell, William a famous character in Swiss stories who was forced to use his great skill with a CROSSBOW to shoot an apple off his son's head. He later killed the powerful man who made him do this, beginning the movement which resulted in an independent Switzerland. See picture on page 1362

tell·er /'telər/ *n* **1** *esp. AmE* a person employed to receive and pay out money in a bank **2** a person who counts votes

tell·ing /'telɪŋ/ *adj* having a great or important effect; SIGNIFICANT: *The most telling factor in their defeat was their lack of reliable supplies.* | *a telling argument* —see also TELL (6) — **~ly** *adv*

telling-off /ˌ·· '·/ *n* severe or angry words spoken to someone because they have done something wrong;

William Tell



REPRIMAND: *The child was given a good telling-off for stealing apples.* —see also TELL **off**

tell·tale[1] /ˈtelteɪl/ *adj* [A] that makes a fact known, esp. an unpleasant fact: *The murderer was given away by a few telltale bloodstains on his car seat.* | *telltale signs of a slowdown in business activity*

telltale[2] *n infml derog* a person who informs about other people's secrets, wrong actions, etc. (mainly used by or of children)

tel·ly /ˈteli/ *n* [C;U] *BrE infml* (a) television

te·me·ri·ty /tɪˈmerɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* foolish confidence; rashness (RASH[1]): *She* **had the temerity to** *ask for a pay increase after only three days' work.*

temp[1] /temp/ *n infml* a person, esp. a secretary, employed to work in an office for a short or limited period of time while someone is absent, while there is a great deal of work, etc.

temp[2] *v* [I] *infml, esp. BrE* to work as a temp: *She's temping during the university vacation.*

temp agency /ˈ· ˌ···/ see TEMPING AGENCY

tem·per[1] /ˈtempəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] a person's present or habitual state of mind, esp. with regard to whether they are angry or easily become angry: *Jean's* **in a bad temper** (=angry) *because she missed the bus and had to walk to work.* | *He has a naturally even/sweet temper.* (=is calm and pleasant by nature) | *He was behaving so stupidly that I found it hard to* **keep my temper**/*that I nearly* **lost my temper.** (=became angry) | *Tempers were becoming rather frayed* (=people were getting angry), *so the chairman brought the meeting to an end.* | *When tempers have cooled* (=when everyone has become calm again) *we will decide what to do.* **2** [C;U] *infml* an angry, impatient, or bad state of mind: *Be careful what you say to her – she's got quite a temper.* (=she easily becomes angry) | *a fit of temper* | *John's* **in a temper** *today, so try not to annoy him.* | *She* **flies into a temper** *if you contradict her.* **3** [U] *tech* the degree to which a substance, esp. a metal, has been hardened or strengthened by tempering (TEMPER[2]) **4 out of temper** *old-fash fml* angry **5 -tempered** /tempəd‖-ərd/ having a temper of the stated kind: *a bad-tempered old man* —see also HOT-TEMPERED, ILL-TEMPERED

temper[2] *v* [T] **1** to bring (metal, clay, etc.) to the desired degree of hardness or firmness by special treatment: *Steel is tempered by heating it and then putting it into cold water.* **2** [(**with**)] *fml or lit* to make less severe by adding something else: *Let justice be tempered with mercy.*

tem·pe·ra /ˈtempərə/ *n* [U] *tech* a method of painting in which the colouring material is mixed with a thick liquid, such as egg

tem·pe·ra·ment /ˈtempərəmənt/ *n* [C;U] a person's nature, esp. as it influences how they think or behave; DISPOSITION: *Actors often have excitable temperaments.* | *Whether a person likes a routine office job or not depends largely on temperament.*

tem·pe·ra·men·tal /ˌtempərəˈmentl◂/ *adj* **1** *usu. derog* having frequent changes of temper; easily excited or made angry; UNPREDICTABLE: *The actress was so temperamental that many people refused to work with her.* | (fig.) *I'm afraid my old car is a bit temperamental and doesn't always start.* **2** caused by one's temperament: *I have a temperamental dislike of sports.* —**~ly** *adv*: *He's temperamentally unsuited to office work.*

tem·pe·rance /ˈtempərəns/ *n* [U] **1** total avoidance of alcoholic drinks: *a temperance society* **2** *fml* self-control in speech, behaviour, or esp. the drinking of alcohol

temperance move·ment /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* an effort by an organization to persuade people not to drink alcohol. Such movements began in the US, Britain, and N Europe in the 19th century because of the increase in alcoholism. —see also PROHIBITION

tem·pe·rate /ˈtempərɪt/ *adj* **1** (of parts of the world, CLIMATE, etc.) free from very high or very low temperatures: *The* **temperate zones** *of the world are found to the north and south of the tropics.* | *temperate plants* (=that live in a temperate climate) **2** *fml* practising or showing self-control: *temperate habits/behaviour* —see also INTEMPERATE

tem·pe·ra·ture /ˈtempərətʃəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] the degree of heat or coldness of a place, object, etc.: *What's the average temperature in London on a summer's day?* | *a sudden rise/fall/change in temperature* | *high temperatures* | *These divers work in sub-zero temperatures.* | *The nurse* **took my temperature** (=measured the heat of my body) *with a thermometer.* —see CELSIUS, FAHRENHEIT **2** [S] a bodily temperature higher than the correct one; a fever: *If you* **have got/are running a temperature** *you should stay in bed.*

tem·pest /ˈtempɪst/ *n esp. lit* a violent storm

Tempest, The a play by William Shakespeare, a TRAGICOMEDY about a MAGICIAN, Prospero, who is exiled (EXILE) on an island with his daughter, Miranda, and Caliban, a witch's son

tem·pes·tu·ous /temˈpestʃuəs/ *adj lit* very rough; stormy; violent: *the tempestuous sea/wind* | (fig.) *a tempestuous meeting of the city council* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

temping a·gen·cy /ˈ·· ˌ···/ ‖ also **temp agency** *AmE*— *n* a business that makes its money by supplying people (esp. secretaries) to work in an office for a short or limited period of time while someone is absent or while there is a great deal of work, etc.

tem·plate, templet /ˈtempleɪt, -plɪt/ *n* a thin board or plate cut into a special shape or pattern, used as a guide for cutting metal, wood, clay, etc.

tem·ple[1] /ˈtempəl/ *n* a building or place for the worship of a god or gods, esp. in the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Mormon, or modern Jewish religions: *the Temple of Heavenly Peace in Peking* | *an ancient Greek/Roman temple*

temple[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] **1** either of the flattish areas on each side of the forehead —see picture at HEAD **2** *AmE* either of the parts of a pair of glasses that hooks over the ear

Temple[1] a part of the City of London consisting of two of the Inns of Court; the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple. Many lawyers and BARRISTERS work there.

Temple[2]**, Shir·ley** /ˈʃɜːli‖ˈʃɜːr-/ (1928–) an American film ACTRESS who was the child star of over 20 films in the 1930s, and in later life, as **Shirley Temple Black**, became a US AMBASSADOR. She was very popular when her films first appeared because of her style of singing, dancing and acting and her curly golden hair.

Shirley Temple



tem·po /ˈtempəʊ/ *n* **-pos** *or* (*tech*) **-pi** /piː/ **1** the speed at which music is or should be played: *at a fast tempo* **2** the rate or pattern of movement, work, or activity; PACE: *the busy tempo of city life*

tem·po·ral /ˈtempərəl/ *adj* **1** *fml* related to practical material affairs as opposed to religious affairs: *The Church has no temporal power in the modern state.* —compare SPIRITUAL[1] (4) **2** *tech* of or limited by time: *"When" and "while" are* **temporal conjunctions.**

tem·po·ra·ry /ˈtempərəri, -pəri‖-pəreri/ *adj* lasting only for a limited time: *Students often find temporary jobs during their summer holidays.* | *We apologize for the temporary inconvenience caused by these building works.* | *a temporary setback* —compare PERMANENT, PROVISIONAL —**-rily** /ˈtempərərɪli‖ˌtempəˈreərɪli/ *adv*: *The daily flight to Dallas has been temporarily suspended.* —**-riness** /ˈtempərərɪnɪs‖-pəreri-/ *n* [U]

temporary re·strain·ing or·der /ˌ···· ·ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **TRO**— *n*

AmE law a court order (INJUNCTION) to make someone do or not do something immediately. It is usu. given by a judge in a situation where it is thought that action must be taken immediately, before there is time for a full hearing in court.

tem·po·rize also **-rise** *BrE* /'tempəraɪz/ *v* [I] *fml* to delay or avoid making a decision in order to gain time

tempt /tempt/ *v* [T **(into, to)**] **1** to persuade or attract (someone) to do something that seems pleasant or advantageous but may be unwise or immoral; make (someone) want to do something: *The Devil tempted Christ by offering him power over all the world.* | *A rival company is trying to tempt her away from her present job with an offer of more money.* | *a tempting offer* | *I think these enticing displays of goods in shops only tempt people into stealing.* (=encourage them to steal) [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The fine weather tempted us to go outside.* | *It's a very attractive offer, and I'm tempted to accept.* (=I would like to accept but am not sure if I should) | *Can I tempt you to another cream bun?* **2 tempt fate/providence** to risk failure by depending too much on luck —~**er** *n* —~**ingly** *adv*

temp·ta·tion /temp'teɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of tempting or the state of being tempted **2** [C] something very attractive; a thing or situation that tempts one: *the temptations of a big city* [+*to-v*] *I tried to resist/overcome the temptation to laugh.*

temp·tress /'temptrəs/ *n lit or humor* a woman who tempts men to sexual immorality

tem·pus fu·git /ˌtempəs 'fju:dʒɪt/ *phrase Lat quote* time flies or passes very quickly (a phrase from Virgil's *Georgics*)

ten /ten/ *determiner, n, pron* **1** (the number) 10 —see TABLE 1 **2 be ten a penny** *infml* to be very common or of little value **3 ten to one** *infml* very likely: *Ten to one the train will be late.* —**tenth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

ten·a·ble /'tenəbəl/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a belief, argument, etc.) that can be successfully defended; reasonable: *To say that the government can't afford it is not a tenable argument.* —opposite **untenable** **2** [F **(for)**] (of an office, job, etc.) that can be held by someone for a usu. stated period of time: *How long is the post tenable (for)?*

te·na·cious /tə'neɪʃəs/ *adj* holding firm to a course of action, esp. in a courageous way; not easily letting go or accepting defeat; PERSISTENT: *He held on to my arm with a tenacious grip.* | *She has proved a very tenacious opponent of the new road scheme.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *or* **-city** /tə'næsəti/ *n* [U]

ten·an·cy /'tenənsi/ *n* **1** [C] the length of time during which someone uses a room, land, building, etc., for which they have paid rent: *a six-month tenancy* **2** [U] the possession and use of a room, land, building, etc., for which rent is paid: *rights of tenancy* | *a tenancy agreement*

ten·ant /'tenənt/ *n* a person who pays rent for the use of a room, building, land, etc.: *Do you own your house or are you a tenant?* | *a council tenant* —compare OWNER-OCCUPIER; see also SITTING TENANT

tenant farm·er /ˌ·· '··/ *n* a person who farms land rented from someone else —see also SHARECROPPER

ten·ant·ry /'tenəntri/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] all the tenant farmers renting land from one person in one place

tench /tentʃ/ *n* **tench** *or* **tenches** a European fish that lives in lakes and rivers

Ten Com·mand·ments /ˌ· ·'··/ also **Decalogue** *fml*— *n* [*the* + P] according to the Bible, God's laws as given to Moses on Mount Sinai. They say how we should live our lives, treat other people, etc. They appear in the Christian, Jewish and Islamic religions. "Thou shalt not kill" is one of the Ten Commandments.

tend[1] /tend/ *v* [I] **1** to have a tendency; be likely (to do or be) something; do or be often or usually: [+*to-v*] *Janet tends to get* (=usually gets) *very angry if you disagree with her.* | *It tends to rain here a lot in the spring.* [+*adv/prep*, esp. **to, towards**] *The sort of music they play varies, but tends towards jazz.* —see APT (USAGE) **2** [+*adv/prep*] to move or develop one's course in a certain direction: *Interest rates are tending upwards.*

tend[2] *v* [T] *old-fash* **1** to take care of (a living thing); look after: *She tended her husband lovingly during his long illness.* | *The nurse skilfully tended the soldiers' wounds.* | *a farmer tending his sheep* **2** *AmE* to serve customers in (a store, bar, etc.): *a bartender*

tend to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to TEND[2] (1): *The nurse tended to the soldier's wounds.*

Ten Days That Shook the World /ˌ· ˌ· · ˌ· · ˈ·/ a book by John Reed about the 1917 Russian Revolution

ten·den·cy /'tendənsi/ *n* **1** [**(to, towards)**] a natural likelihood of developing, thinking, or behaving in a particular way; PROPENSITY: *She has artistic tendencies.* | *He's always had a tendency to/towards frivolity.* [+*to-v*] *his tendency to view world affairs purely in terms of the East-West conflict* **2** [**(to, towards)**] a general movement or development in a certain direction or towards a certain condition; TREND: *an increasing tendency towards the use of firearms by criminals* [+*to-v*] *There is a growing tendency for people to work at home instead of in offices.* **3** [+*sing./pl. v*] *BrE* a group within a political party that supports ideas different from and usu. more extreme than those of the main party —see also MILITANT TENDENCY

ten·den·tious /ten'denʃəs/ *adj fml derog* (of a speech, remark, book, etc.) expressing a particular opinion; intended to influence the reader or hearer in a particular direction, esp. on a subject causing strong feelings or argument —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

ten·der[1] /'tendəʳ/ *adj* **1** painful; sore; sensitive to the touch: *The wound is still very tender.* | (fig.) *Don't mention his divorce – it's a very tender subject.* (=a subject which could upset him) **2** easy to bite through; soft: *beautifully tender meat* —opposite **tough** **3** gentle and loving; sympathetic; kind: *a tender heart* | *tender loving care* **4** [A] *lit or humor* young; inexperienced: *a child of tender years* | *He was sent to boarding school at the tender age of eight.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

tender[2] *n* **1** a vehicle carrying coal and/or water, pulled behind a railway engine **2** a small boat for carrying passengers, supplies, etc., between the shore and a larger boat **3** (*often in comb.*) a person who takes care of something: *a bartender*

tender[3] *n* a statement of the price one would charge for providing goods or services or for doing a job: *to submit a tender* —see also LEGAL TENDER

tender[4] *v* **1** [I **(for)**] to make a formal offer to do something at a particular price: *Several firms have tendered for the new road-building contract.* **2** [T **(to)**] *fml* to present for acceptance: *The minister* **tendered his resignation** *to the Queen, but was asked to reconsider his decision.* **3** [T] *fml* to offer in payment: *"Passengers should tender the exact fare. Change will not be given on this bus."* (notice)

ten·der·foot /'tendəfʊt‖-ər-/ *n* **-foots** *or* **-feet** /fi:t/ **1** *AmE infml* a person who has recently arrived in a rough place, such as formerly the western US, where life is hard **2** an inexperienced beginner: *a political tenderfoot*

ten·der·heart·ed /ˌtendə'hɑ:təd◂‖-dər'hɑ:r-/ *adj* easily made to have feelings of love, pity, or sorrow: *She was too tenderhearted to refuse.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Tender is the Night /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ a book by F Scott Fitzgerald written in 1934, based on his own life, about an alcoholic doctor and his mad wife on the French Riviera

ten·der·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'tendəraɪz/ *v* [T] to make (meat) tender by special preparation

ten·der·loin /'tendəlɔɪn‖-ər-/ *n* [U] tender meat taken from each side of the backbone of cows or pigs: *pork/beef tenderloin*

ten·don /'tendən/ *n* a thick strong cord that connects a muscle to a bone

ten·dril /'tendrəl/ *n* a thin leafless curling stem by which a climbing plant fastens itself to a support

ten·e·ment /'tenəmənt/ *n* a large building divided into flats, esp. in the poorer areas of a city

Ten·e·rife /ˌtenə'ri:f/ one of the Canary Islands off the NW coast of Africa, a very popular holiday place with British and other (mainly European) tourists

ten·et /'tenət/ *n fml* a principle or belief held by a person, religious group, etc., esp. one that forms part of a larger system of beliefs: *socialist tenets*

ten-gal·lon hat /ˌ· ·· ˈ·/ *n* a tall hat made of soft material with a very wide BRIM, of a kind worn by COWBOYS in the US

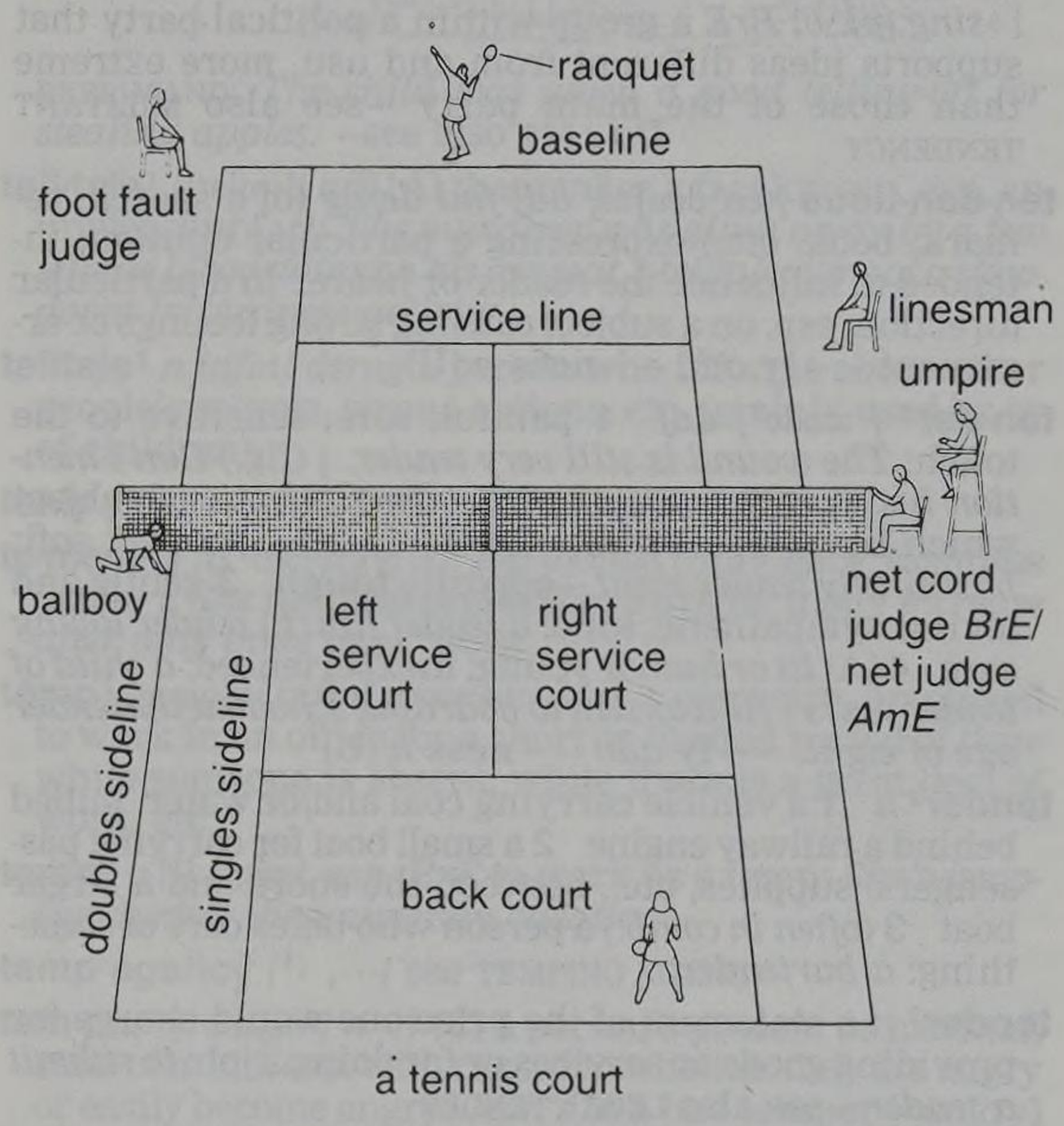
Ten Green Bot·tles /ˌ· · ˈ··/ a song about ten green bottles hanging on a wall and becoming fewer and fewer as they fall off the wall

ten·ner /ˈtenəʳ/ *n BrE infml* £10 or a ten-pound note: *It costs a tenner.* | *I've only got tenners.*

Ten·nes·see /ˌtenəˈsi:◂/ *written abbrev.* **TN**– a state in the S central US, with an ECONOMY based on industry and farming, and whose cities include Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville –see colour map on pages 1374–5

Ten·ni·el /ˈteniəl/, **Sir John** (1820–1914) an English artist who drew the pictures for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. He drew CARTOONS for the magazine *Punch* for over 50 years.

tennis



a tennis court

ten·nis /ˈtenɨs/ *n* [U] **1** a game for two people or two pairs of people who use RACKETS to hit a small soft ball backwards and forwards across a low net dividing a specially marked level court: *Do you play tennis?* | *a tennis player|racket|ball|court* –see also DECK TENNIS, LAWN TENNIS, WIMBLEDON **2 anyone for tennis?** a phrase from plays of the 1920s and 1930s and usu. said by UPPER-CLASS people when inviting others to play tennis. It is used humorously by other people.

▷ USAGE In an important **tennis match** the person in charge is called the **umpire;** the winner of such a match is the one who wins the larger number of **sets** (=groups of **games**).◁

tennis el·bow /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a painful condition of the elbow caused esp. by too much repeated twisting of the hand

tennis shoe /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* TRAINER

Ten·ny·son /ˈtenɨsən/, **Al·fred** /ˈælfrɨd/, **Lord** (1809–92) an English poet who was made POET LAUREATE, and whose works include *The Charge of the Light Brigade*

ten·on /ˈtenən/ *n* a specially cut end of a piece of wood made to fit exactly into a shaped opening (MORTISE) in another piece of wood and so form a joint

ten·or /ˈtenəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] (*usu.* a man with) a high male singing voice, lower than ALTO (1) and higher than BARITONE **2** [C] a musical instrument with the same range of notes as this: *a tenor saxophone* **3** [(*the*) S (**of**)] *fml* the general direction, course, or character: *It seemed nothing could disturb the even tenor of our existence in those happy prewar days.* **4** [(*the*) S (**of**)] *fml* the general meaning (of something written or spoken): *I understood the tenor of his speech but not the details.*

ten·pin /ˈtenˌpɪn/ *n* any of the ten bottle-shaped wooden objects that one tries to knock down in BOWLING

tenpin bowl·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **ten·pins** /ˈtenˌpɪnz/ *AmE*– *n* [U] BOWLING

tense[1] /tens/ *adj* **1** having, showing, or causing nervous anxiety: *I was so tense the night before my exams that I couldn't sleep.* | *a tense situation|atmosphere* **2** stretched tight; stiff; TAUT: *tense muscles* –see also TENSION – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

tense[2] *v* [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) become tense

tense[3] *n* [C;U] any of the forms of a verb that show the time and continuance or completion of the action or state expressed by the verb: *"I am" is in the present tense, "I was" is past tense, and "I will be" is future tense.*

tensed up /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* [F] nervously anxious: *John seems very tensed up; do you know what's worrying him?*

ten·sile /ˈtensaɪl‖ˈtensəl/ *adj tech* **1** [A *no comp.*] related to TENSION (1, 2): *The* **tensile strength** *of a rope is the amount of weight it can hold without breaking.* **2** that can be stretched: *tensile rubber*

ten·sion /ˈtenʃən/ *n* **1** [U] (a feeling of) nervous anxiety, worry, or pressure: *The doctor said I was suffering from nervous tension.* | **Tension mounted** (=increased) *as we waited for the exam results to be published.* **2** [C *usu. pl.*;U] an anxious, untrusting, and perhaps dangerous condition in the relationship between people, countries, etc.: *the racial tensions of a big American city* | *The signing of this agreement will help to reduce|defuse international tension.* | *The border dispute has been a continuing source of tension.* **3** [U] the degree of tightness or stiffness of a wire, rope, the body, etc.: *When he tightened the guitar string, it snapped under the tension.* | *muscle tension* **4** [U] the amount of a force stretching something: *This wire will take 50 pounds tension before breaking.* **5** [U] *tech* electric power: *"Danger. High tension wires. Keep clear!"* (notice)

1066 /ˌten sɪksti ˈsɪks/ the year 1066, the year of the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of Britain. For some reason it is one of the few dates in British history which most British people know.

1066 And All That /ˌten sɪksti ˈsɪks ənd ɔ:l ˌðæt/ a humorous book about British history written by Sellars and Yeatman

tent /tent/ *n* **1** a movable shelter made esp. of cloth or plastic material supported by a structure of poles and ropes, used esp. by campers: *a row of tents* | *a tent peg* –see picture at PEG **2** a similar covered frame used for giving support or protection, esp. in the treatment of illness: *Put a tent over his legs to stop them being rubbed by the sheets.* –see also OXYGEN TENT

ten·ta·cle /ˈtentɨkəl/ *n* a long snakelike boneless jointless limb on certain creatures, used for moving, feeling, seizing, touching, etc. –see picture at OCTOPUS

ten·ta·tive /ˈtentətɪv/ *adj* **1** not certain or fully developed; not firm or complete: *We've made tentative plans for a holiday but haven't decided anything certain yet.* | *a tentative arrangement|agreement* **2** done without confidence; HESITANT: *a tentative smile* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U] : *the tentativeness of his reply*

ten·ter·hooks /ˈtentəhʊks‖-ər-/ *n* **on tenterhooks** in a worried, anxious, or nervous state of mind; in a state of anxious expectation

tenth /tenθ/ *determiner, n, pron, adv* 10th –see TABLE 1

ten·u·ous /ˈtenjuəs/ *adj* **1** (of something non-physical) having little meaning or strength; slight; INSIGNIFICANT: *The connection between the film and the book it's supposed to be based on is fairly tenuous.* | *tenuous evidence* **2** *fml or lit* very thin: *The spider hung from a tenuous silky thread.* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

ten·ure /ˈtenjəʳ, -jʊəʳ/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** the act, right, or period of holding land or a job: *He remained popular throughout his tenure of the office of president.* | *One of the conditions of tenure is that you must keep the land under cultivation.* **2** *esp. AmE* the right to stay in a job, esp. as a university teacher, without needing to have a new contract of employment, usu. given after a fixed number of years: *Has she got tenure?* | *a tenure-tracked position* (=one which will lead to tenure) *at Harvard*

Ten·zing /ˈtensɪŋ/, **Sherpa** (1914–86) a Nepalese mountain climber and guide whose correct name was **Tenzing Norgay**. He and Sir Edmund Hillary were the first men to reach the top of Mt. Everest.

te·pee, teepee, tipi /ˈti:pi:/ *n* a round tent of the type used by some Native Americans, esp. those living on the PLAINS –see colour picture on page 358

tep·id /ˈtepɨd/ *adj* (esp. of liquid) only slightly warm; LUKEWARM: *tepid water* | (fig.) *The critics' reaction to the new film was rather tepid.* (=showed only slight approval) – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *or* **~ity** /teˈpɪdɨti/ *fml*– *n* [U]

te·qui·la /tɪˈkiːlə/ *n* [U] a strong alcoholic drink made in Mexico

tequila sun·rise /ˈ·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a COCKTAIL (1) made from tequila, orange juice, and GRENADINE

ter·cen·te·na·ry /ˌtɜːsenˈtiːnəri‖ˌtɜːrsenˈtenəri, tɜːrˈsentəneri/ also **ter·cen·ten·ni·al** /ˌtɜːsenˈteniəl‖ˌtɜːr-/— *n* the day or year exactly 300 years after a particular event

Teresa, Mother see MOTHER TERESA

Ter·kel /ˈtɜːkəl‖ˈtɜːr-/, **Studs** /stʌdz/ (1912–) an American writer and radio personality whose books, including *Working* and *The Good War*, are based on experiences and memories of ordinary American people

term[1] /tɜːm‖tɜːrm/ *n* **1** a fixed or limited period of time: *The President is elected for a four-year term (of office).* | *her second term as Prime Minister* | *a term of imprisonment* | *When does his term expire?* **2 a** *BrE* any of three periods of time into which the teaching year is divided at schools, universities, etc. **b** ‖ also **semester** *AmE*— any of two periods of time into which this teaching year is divided in the US: *the summer term* | *Are there any exams at the end of term|any end-of-term exams?* —compare SEMESTER; see also HALF TERM, MIDTERM **3** a period of time during which a court, parliament, etc., meets **4** [*usu. sing.*] *tech* the end of a period of time during which something lasts: *Since our contract is getting near its term we must negotiate a new one.* | *The doctor said my wife was too near her term* (=the day on which she is to give birth to a child) *to travel by air.* **5** [*often pl.*] a word or expression that has a particular meaning or is used in a particular activity, job, profession, etc.: *a medical term* | *a term used in the building trade* | *The word "moron" is a* **term of abuse.** (=a word used when speaking nastily or unkindly to someone) | *She spoke in glowing terms* (=very approvingly) *about your work.* | *I told him* **in no uncertain terms** (=in plain and direct language) *to mind his own business.* **6** *tech* each of the various parts in an expression in MATHEMATICS **7 in the long/medium/short term** over a long/middle-sized/short period of time: *In the short term we expect to lose money on this book, but in the long term we hope to make large profits.* | *the government's medium-term financial strategy* —see also TERMS, LONG-TERM, SHORT-TERM

term[2] *v* [T+*obj* (+**as**)+*n|adj*] to name, call, or describe; DESIGNATE: *The chairman of this parliament is termed "the Speaker".* | *a pay offer which the union termed as absurd*

ter·ma·gant /ˈtɜːməgənt‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n, adj* [A] *esp. lit* (a woman who is) noisy and quarrelsome

ter·mi·nal[1] /ˈtɜːmɫnəl‖ˈtɜːr-/ *adj* **1** of or being an illness that will cause death: *terminal cancer* | *the terminal wards of a hospital* **2** *esp. tech* of or at the end or limit of something —**~ly** *adv* : *terminally ill*

terminal[2] *n* **1 a** a place or set of buildings for the use of passengers joining or leaving a bus, ship, etc., at the beginning or end of its journey: *the Ocean Terminal at Southampton* **b** an AIR TERMINAL —compare TERMINUS **2** a point at which connections can be made to an electric system (CIRCUIT) **3** an apparatus, usu. consisting of a KEYBOARD and a SCREEN, by which a user can give instructions to and get information from a computer, esp. a large computer to which many users are connected

ter·mi·nate /ˈtɜːmɫneɪt‖ˈtɜːr-/ *v* [I+*adv|prep*;T] *fml* to come or bring to an end: *The next train terminates here.* (=it goes no further) | *Your contract has been terminated.* | *to terminate a pregnancy*

ter·mi·na·tion /ˌtɜːmɫˈneɪʃəɲ‖ˌtɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] (an) act of terminating **2** [C] *BrE euph or tech for* ABORTION **3** [C] *tech* the last part or letter of a word

Ter·min·a·tor /ˈtɜːmɫneɪtəʳ‖ˈtɜːr-/, **The** a film with Arnold Schwarzenegger set in Los Angeles in the near future in which a lot of people are killed. This film was followed by *Terminator II.* —see colour picture on page 685

ter·mi·nol·o·gy /ˌtɜːmɫˈnɒlədʒi‖ˌtɜːrmɫˈnɑː-/ *n* [C;U] (a system of) specialized words and expressions used in a particular science, profession, activity, etc.: *medical terminology* —**-ogical** /ˌtɜːmɫnəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖ˌtɜːrmɫnəˈlɑː-/ *adj* —**-ogically** /kli/ *adv*

ter·mi·nus /ˈtɜːmɫnəs‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* **-ni** /naɪ/ *or* **-nuses** a stop or station at the end of a railway or bus line —compare TERMINAL[2] (1)

ter·mite /ˈtɜːmaɪt‖ˈtɜːr-/ also **white ant**— *n* an antlike insect that lives in very large groups in tropical areas, eats and destroys wood, and builds large hills of hard earth —see picture at INSECT

term·ly /ˈtɜːmli‖ˈtɜːr-/ *adj esp. BrE* happening each TERM[1] (2): *termly exams*

terms /tɜːmz‖tɜːrmz/ *n* [P] **1** the conditions of an agreement, contract, etc.: *a contract specifying the terms of employment* | *According to|Under the terms of the agreement, British ships will be allowed to take a limited quantity of fish each year.* | *If I agree to do it, it will be on my own terms.* (=I will name the conditions) **2** [(**at, on**)] the stated conditions concerning payment, prices, etc.: *We sell furniture at very reasonable terms.* | *to negotiate a loan on favourable terms* | *He bought the car on* **easy terms.** (=paying for it gradually, not all at once) **3** [(**on**)] a relationship of the stated quality: *I'm not* **on** *very* **good terms** *with her* (=we are not friendly) *at the moment.* | *After their argument they weren't* **on speaking terms.** (=refused to speak to each other) | *We met* **on equal terms.** (=as equals) **4 come to terms with** to accept (something one does not want to accept): *It's hard to come to terms with going blind.* **5 in terms of** ... /**in** ... **terms** with regard to; from the point of view of: *The book has been well reviewed, but in terms of actual sales|in sales terms it hasn't been very successful.* | *In business terms the project is not really viable, but it would add to the prestige of the company.* | *We're* **thinking in terms of** (=considering) *moving to the South, as there are so few jobs in the North.* | *The recent increase in inflation means that our income has been reduced* **in real terms.** (=after taking account of price rises) | *It sounds like a good suggestion, but I wonder what it will mean in practical terms.* (=in actual fact)

terms of ref·e·rence /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [P] the subject(s) to which an inquiry, report, etc., has been limited: *This problem is outside the committee's terms of reference.*

tern /tɜːn‖tɜːrn/ *n* a long-winged black and white fork-tailed seabird

terp·si·cho·re·an /ˌtɜːpsɪkəˈriːən◂ ‖ ˌtɜːr-/ *adj lit or pomp* of dancing

ter·race /ˈterɫs/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* a row of houses joined to each other —compare TOWN HOUSE **2** *AmE* a BALCONY or PORCH **3** [*usu. pl.*] *esp. BrE* any of a number of wide steps on which watchers stand at a football match **4 a** *BrE‖usu.* **patio** *AmE* a flat area next to a house usu. with a stone floor, used as an outdoor living area **b** a flat roof used as an outdoor living area —see also PATIO **5** a flat level area cut from a slope, usu. one of a number rising one behind and above the other, used esp. for growing crops

terraced house /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **row house** *AmE*— *n* a house which is part of a TERRACE (1) —see picture at HOUSE and see colour picture on page 162

ter·ra·cot·ta /ˌterəˈkɒtə◂‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* [U] hard reddish brown baked clay: *a terracotta vase*

ter·ra fir·ma /ˌterə ˈfɜːmə‖-ˈfɜːr-/ *n* [U] *pomp or humor* dry land: *After such a rough voyage we were glad to reach terra firma again.*

ter·rain /teˈreɪn, tɫ-/ *n* [C;U] an area of land, esp. when considered with regard to whether it is rough, smooth, easy or difficult to cross, etc.: *rocky terrain*

ter·ra·pin /ˈterəpɫn/ *n* **terrapin** *or* **terrapins** a small TURTLE that lives in rivers and lakes in warm areas, sometimes kept as a pet

Ter·rence Hig·gins Trust /ˌterəns ˈhɪgɪnz ˌtrʌst/ [*the*] a British CHARITY organization which was started in 1983 and gives help and advice to people suffering from or worried about AIDS and HIV INFECTION

ter·res·tri·al /tɫˈrestriəl/ *adj* **1** of the Earth (rather than the moon, space, etc.) —see also EXTRATERRESTRIAL **2** of, living on, or being land (rather than water): *terrestrial animals* —**~ly** *adv*

ter·ri·ble /ˈterɫbəl/ *adj* **1** extremely severe; causing suffering, destruction, etc.: *a terrible war|accident|winter* **2** causing great dislike, shock, or fear: *Suddenly there was a terrible noise, and the train came off the rails.* | *It was a terrible sight.* **3** *infml* extremely bad; AWFUL: *We had a terrible time on holiday.* | *What a terrible meal!*

terrible twos /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the* +P] the condition of being a small child, around two years old, whose behaviour is often rather difficult: *"How old is little Johnny now?" "He's just approaching the terrible twos!"*

ter·ri·bly /ˈterəbli/ *adv* **1** *infml* very; extremely: *I've been terribly worried about you all day.* | *We were terribly lucky to find you here.* | *I'm terribly sorry to have kept you waiting.* **2** very badly, severely, etc.: *He played that piece of music terribly.*

ter·ri·er /ˈteriəʳ/ *n* a small active dog of a type originally used for hunting

ter·rif·ic /təˈrɪfɪk/ *adj infml* **1** very good and esp. enjoyable; excellent: *We had a terrific time at the disco.* | *What a terrific party!* **2** very great in size or degree: *She drove at a terrific speed*

ter·rif·i·cally /təˈrɪfɪkli/ *adv infml* very; extremely: *It's terrifically cold again today.*

ter·ri·fied /ˈterəfaɪd/ *adj* [**(of, at)**] very much afraid; badly frightened: *a terrified child* | *I'm terrified of snakes.* | *He was terrified at the thought of parachuting.* [F+(*that*)] *We were terrified (that) the bridge would collapse.* —see FRIGHTENED (USAGE)

ter·ri·fy /ˈterəfaɪ/ *v* [T] to fill with terror or fear: *Heights terrify me!* | *a terrifying ordeal*

ter·ri·to·ri·al[1] /ˌterəˈtɔːriəl◂/ *adj fml* **1** [*no comp.*] of or being land or territory: *Most of Britain's former territorial possessions are now independent.* | *The two countries had a territorial dispute over which one owned the island.* **2** (of animals, birds, etc.) showing a tendency to guard one's own TERRITORY (2)

territorial[2] *n* (*often cap.*) a member of the British Territorial Army

Territorial Ar·my /ˌ····· ˈ··/ also **TA, Territorials**– [*the*] a military force of people who are trained in their free time to be able to defend Britain —compare HOME GUARD, NATIONAL GUARD

territorial wa·ters /ˌ····· ˈ··/ *n* [P] the sea near a country's coast, over which that country has legal control and in which foreigners are not allowed to catch fish

ter·ri·to·ry /ˈterətəri‖-tɔːri/ *n* [C;U] **1 A** (an area of) land, esp. considered with regard to the government that owns or controls it: *The explorers claimed the land as British territory.* | *The guerillas were operating inside South African territory.* | *We travelled through unknown territory.* | (fig.) *The company is moving into unfamiliar|virgin territory with this new range of computer software.* | (fig.) *You're (treading) on rather dangerous territory if you mention that incident; it upsets him.* **b US territories**, such as the Virgin Islands and Guam; most US states were once US territories **2** (an) area regarded by a person or esp. an animal as belonging to it alone and defended against others entering it: *The blackbird sang to warn other birds off its territory.* **3** (an) area for which one person or branch of an organization is responsible: *As the company's northern sales manager I'm responsible for quite a large territory.* **4** *infml* an area of interest or knowledge: *I'm afraid I can't tell you the answer to that – esoteric religions are a bit outside my territory.*

ter·ror /ˈterəʳ/ *n* **1** [S (**of**);U] extreme fear: *The people ran from the enemy in terror.* | *a look of sheer terror on his face* | *I have a terror of insects.* **2** [(*the*) S (**of**)] someone or something that causes extreme fear: *The criminal was the terror of the neighbourhood.* **3** [U] violent action for political purposes; terrorism: *The resistance movement started a campaign of terror|a terror campaign against the colonial rulers.* **4** [C] *infml* an annoying person, esp. a child: *Your son's a real terror! Can't you control him?* —see also REIGN OF TERROR

ter·ror·is·m /ˈterərɪzəm/ *n* [U] the use of violence or the threat of violence to obtain political demands: *The government is determined to combat* (=oppose) *international terrorism.*

ter·ror·ist /ˈterərɪst/ *n* someone who uses violence to obtain political demands: *Terrorists have claimed responsibility for the bomb blast which killed 20 people.* | *terrorist attacks* —compare GUERRILLA, PARTISAN[2]; see also CONSUMER TERRORIST

ter·ror·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈterəraɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to fill with terror or force into obedience by threats or acts of violence: *Bandits have been terrorizing the border regions.* (=the people who live there) | *the terrorizing of innocent people* **2** [**(into)**] to force by the use of threats of violence: *The postmaster was terrorized into handing over the money.*

terror-strick·en /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **terror-struck** /ˈ·· ·/– *adj* filled with great terror

ter·ry·cloth /ˈteriklɒθ‖-klɔːθ/ also **ter·ry** /ˈteri/– *n* [U] a thick usu. cotton material with uncut threads on both sides, used esp. for making TOWELs, bath mats, nappies (NAPPY), etc.

terse /tɜːs‖tɜːrs/ *adj* (of a speaker or style of speaking) using as few words as possible, sometimes in a way that seems rude; CONCISE: *His terse reply ended the conversation.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

ter·tia·ry /ˈtɜːʃəri‖ˈtɜːrʃieri, -ʃəri/ *adj fml or tech* third in place, degree, order, or rank

tertiary ed·u·ca·tion /ˌ··· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] HIGHER EDUCATION

Te·ry·lene /ˈterəliːn/ *n* [U] *tdmk, BrE* an inexpensive man-made cloth similar to nylon

Tes·co /ˈteskəʊ/ also **Tesco's**– [+ *sing./pl. v*] one of a group of SUPERMARKETs, selling mainly food but also many other products for the house, found in most large British towns and cities: *Tesco's has a lot of special offers at the moment.*

TESL /ˈtesl/ *n* [U] Teaching English as a Second Language; English as it is taught to people living in an English-speaking country and whose first language is not English —compare EFL, ELT, ESL, ESOL, TEFL

TESOL /ˈtesɒl‖-sɑːl/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* teaching English to speakers of other languages; the principles and practice of teaching English to speakers of other languages — compare EFL, ELT, ESL, ESOL, TEFL

TESSA /ˈtesə/ *n* (in Britain) a Tax-Exempt Special Savings Account; an account with a bank or BUILDING SOCIETY which earns interest on which no tax is payable if the capital is left untouched for at least five years

tes·sel·la·ted /ˈtesəleɪtəd/ *adj tech* made of small flat pieces of variously coloured stones that form a pattern: *a tessellated pavement*

Tess of the D'Ur·ber·villes /ˌtes əv ðə ˈdɜːbəvɪlz‖-ˈdɜːrbər-/ a book by Thomas Hardy, written in 1891. Like Hardy's other books it is set in the ancient kingdom of Wessex (now SW England) and describes country life as well as the sad story of a young woman, Tess.

test[1] /test/ *n* **1** a number of questions, exercises, jobs, etc., for measuring someone's skill, cleverness, or knowledge of a particular subject; short examination: *a history test* | *an intelligence|aptitude test* | *You can't drive a car unaccompanied by an experienced driver until you've passed your driving test.* **2** a short medical examination: *an eye test* | *a blood test* **3** an occasion of using something, such as a machine or weapon, to see if it works properly: *nuclear weapons tests* | *This new aircraft is undergoing safety tests.* | *Tests have shown that these new tyres are significantly safer.* **4** any situation or condition in which the qualities of something are clearly shown: *The difficulties she faced were a real test of character.* | *This round-the-world voyage will really* **put** *his sailing experience* **to the test.** | *This old song has* **stood the test of time.** (=is still popular, or still seems good, even after a long time has passed) **5** something used as a standard when judging or examining something else: *Employers will use this agreement as a test in dealing with future wage claims.* —see also TEST CASE **6** (usu. *cap.*) a TEST MATCH: *Botham will not be playing tomorrow, the last day of the Third Test.* —see also ACID TEST, BREATH TEST

test[2] *v* **1** [T] to study or examine by means of a test: *to have one's eyes tested* | *The teacher is testing the students on their French.* | *a new agreement that bans the testing of nuclear weapons* | (fig.) *I think he made these proposals mainly to test public opinion.* **2** [T] to provide difficult conditions for; TAX[2] (2): *These wet roads really test a car's tyres.* | *These are* **testing times** (=a difficult period) *for our country.* | *Listening to his continuous stream of empty chatter really tested my patience.* **3** [I;T (**for**)] to search by means of tests: *The company is testing (the ground) for oil.* **4 test the water** check people's reaction to something before carrying out a plan: *We should test the water before we introduce a smoking ban in the staffroom.* — **~er** *n*

Test Act /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] an ACT[2] (2) passed in 1673 in Britain to stop Catholics taking public office or becoming members of Parliament. The act was repealed (REPEAL) in 1828.

tes·ta·ment /ˈtestəmənt/ *n fml* **1** a person's WILL[2] (5): *Her solicitor drew up her* **last will and testament.** **2** [**(to)**]

something that shows or proves something else very clearly: *This aircraft's safety record is an impressive testament to its designers' skill.* —see also NEW TESTAMENT, OLD TESTAMENT

tes·ta·men·ta·ry /ˌtestəˈmentəri◂/ *adj law* of or done according to a WILL² (5)

Test and Coun·ty Crick·et Board /ˌ· · ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] the governing body of the sport of professional cricket in Britain

tes·tate /ˈtesteɪt, -tɨt/ *adj law* (of a person) having made a legal WILL² (5) before dying —opposite **intestate**

tes·ta·tor /teˈsteɪtəʳ‖ˈtesteɪ-, teˈsteɪ-/ **tes·ta·trix** /tesˈteɪtrɪks/ *fem.— n law* the maker of a WILL² (5)

test ban /ˈ· ·/ *n* an agreement between states to stop testing atomic weapons: *a test-ban treaty*

test card /ˈ· ·/ *n* ‖ **test pattern** *AmE* a pattern or picture broadcast on televisionso that the picture produced on a television set can be tested and changed

test card



test case /ˈ· ·/ *n* a case in a court of law which establishes a particular principle and is then used as a standard against which other such cases can be judged

test drive /ˈ· ·/ *n* an occasion of driving something, usu. a car, to see if it works properly: *To arrange a test drive, contact your local Volvo dealer.* —**test-drive** *v* [T]

tes·ti·cle /ˈtestɪkəl/ *n* either of the two round SPERM-producing organs in the male, enclosed in a bag of skin (the SCROTUM) behind and below the PENIS

tes·ti·fy /ˈtestɨfaɪ/ *v* [I (**against, for, to**);T+*that*;*obj*] **1** to make a solemn statement of what is true, esp. in a court of law: *A married woman is not allowed to testify against her husband in court.* | *He agreed to testify on behalf of|for the accused.* | *The witness testified (under oath) that he'd seen the defendant run out of the bank after it had been robbed.* **2** *fml* to be proof; allow to be clearly seen: *Her nervous behaviour testified to her guilt|that she was guilty.* **3** *AmE* (esp. in an EVANGELICAL or FUNDAMENTALIST church service) to stand up and tell other people about how God has helped you in your life: *Who would like to testify?*

tes·ti·mo·ni·al /ˌtestɨˈməʊniəl/ *n* **1** a formal written statement concerning a person's character, ability, willingness to work, etc. —see REFERENCE (USAGE) **2** something given or done to show thanks, praise, or admiration to someone, e.g. for loyal service

tes·ti·mo·ny /ˈtestɨməni‖-məʊni/ *n* [C;U] **1** a formal statement that something is true, as made by a witness in a court of law: *His testimony is crucial to the prosecution's case.* | *She was accused of false testimony.* **2** [(**of, to**)] any fact or situation that shows or proves something very clearly: *These fine new towns are (a) testimony of|to the government's farsighted policies.*

tes·tis /ˈtestɨs/ *n* **-tes** /tiːz/ *tech for* TESTICLE

test match /ˈ· ·/ also **test**— *n* a cricket or RUGBY match played between teams of different countries —see also CRICKET

tes·tos·ter·one /teˈstɒstərəʊn‖-ˈtɑː-/ *n* [U] the bodily substance (HORMONE) that causes male animals to have male parts or qualities

test pi·lot /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a pilot who flies new aircraft in order to test them

test tube /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small tube of thin glass, closed at one end, used in scientific tests —see picture at LABORATORY and at TUBE

test-tube ba·by /ˈ· · ˌ··/ *n* **1** a baby born as the result of ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION **2** a baby started outside the body and then planted inside a female to develop naturally

tes·ty /ˈtesti/ *adj* impatient and bad-tempered; IRRITABLE: *a testy old man* | *testy remarks* —**-tily** *adv* —**-tiness** *n* [U]

tet·a·nus /ˈtetənəs/ also **lockjaw** *infml*— *n* [U] a serious disease caused by bacteria that enter the body through cuts and wounds and stiffen the muscles, esp. of the jaw. If a person is badly cut, he or she can get a course of INJECTIONS to prevent tetanus.

tetch·y /ˈtetʃi/ *adj* sensitive in a bad-tempered way; easily offended: *She's so tetchy; she flares up at the least little criticism.* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

tête-à-tête¹ /ˌteɪt ɑː ˈteɪt, ˌteɪt ə ˈteɪt/ *n* a private conversation between two people. The word is sometimes used instead of, e.g., CHAT by people who want to show their wide command of language: *a cosy tête-à-tête*

tête-à-tête² *adv fml or pomp* (of two people) together in private (used in the same way as the noun): *We dined tête-à-tête.*

teth·er¹ /ˈteðəʳ/ *n* **1** a rope or chain to which an animal is tied so that it is free to move within a limited area **2 the end of one's tether** the condition of having used up all one's patience, strength, etc., and of being able to bear nothing more: *After a difficult day at work, she just about reached the end of her tether when her car broke down on the way home.*

tether² *v* [T] to fasten (an animal) with a tether

Tet·ley /ˈtetli/ *tdmk* a company which produces a make of tea sold in Britain and the US

Teu·ton·ic /tjuːˈtɒnɪk‖tuːˈtɑː-/ *adj* **1** of or being the ancient German peoples of northwestern Europe **2** *humor* (of qualities) of a kind that is sometimes thought to be typical of German people: *Teutonic thoroughness|lack of humour|efficiency*

Tex·a·co /ˈteksəkəʊ/ *tdmk* a large OIL and PETROL company: *Texaco are likely to announce price rises tomorrow.* | *a Texaco garage*

Tex·as¹ /ˈteksəs/ *written abbrev.* **TX**— a large state in the American South which is an important centre of the oil and gas industries, and also of cattle and crop farming. Its cities include Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin, and El Paso. Texas is associated with COWBOYS, or, more recently, with oil. It is sometimes thought of as the place where everything is bigger than anywhere else. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Texas², also **Texas Home·care** /ˌteksəs ˈhəʊmkeəʳ/— (in Britain) (any branch of) a chain of large shops selling things with which to decorate, improve or repair one's house, garden furniture, plants, etc.

Texas Long·horn /ˌ·· ˈ··/ LONGHORN

Texas Rang·ers /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a special group of policemen in the American state of Texas, known esp. for fighting criminals in the 1800s and for defending Texas

text /tekst/ *n* **1** [U] the main body of writing, esp. in a book, as opposed to notes, pictures, etc.: *Children won't like this book because there is too much text and too few pictures.* | *This disk can store the equivalent of 500 pages of text.* **2** [*the*+S (**of**)] the exact original words of a speech, article, etc.: *Our newspaper is printing the full text of the President's speech.* **3** [C (**of**)] any of the various forms in which a book, article, etc., exists; copy: *the original text of "War and Peace"* **4** [C] a sentence from the Bible that is read and talked about by a priest in church: *The text for my sermon today comes from Matthew 1:4.* **5** [C] a textbook: *"Hamlet" is a* **set text** (=one of the books that must be studied) *for this year's English exam.*

text·book¹ /ˈtekstbʊk/ *n* a book containing information for the study of a particular subject, esp. one that is used by students because it is generally regarded as providing information that can be trusted —see also COURSE BOOK

textbook² *adj* [A] **1** as good as everyone thinks it ought to be; IDEAL: *She'd tried her best to be a textbook mum.* | *That shot of Becker's was superb — textbook stuff.* **2** typical: *This is an absolutely textbook example of what I've been talking about.*

tex·tile /ˈtekstaɪl/ *n* a material made by weaving: *Their main exports are textiles, especially silk and cotton.* | *a textile factory*

tex·tu·al /ˈtekstʃuəl/ *adj* of the text: *There are significant textual differences between the two editions of this book.* | *textual criticism*

tex·ture /ˈtekstʃəʳ/ *n* [C;U] **1** the degree of roughness or smoothness, coarseness (COARSE) or fineness, of a surface, substance, or material, esp. as felt by touch: *the delicate texture of her skin* | *the smooth texture of silk* | *a soil with a loose sandy texture* | (fig.) *the rich texture of Shakespeare's English* **2 -textured** /tekstʃəd‖-ərd/ having a texture of the stated kind: *coarse-textured cloth* —**-tural** *adj* —**-turally** *adv*

textured vege·ta·ble pro·tein /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **TVP**– *n* [U] a substance made from beans that is used in place of meat

TGIF /ˌtiː dʒiː aɪ ˈef/ *interj abbrev. for* Thank God it's Friday; a phrase used by people at the end of a working week when they are looking forward to two days of rest at the weekend

TGWU /ˌtiː dʒiː dʌbəljuː ˈjuː/ [*the*] the Transport and General Workers' Union; one of the main TRADE UNIONS in Britain

Thack·e·ray /ˈθækəreɪ/, **Wil·liam Make·peace** /ˈwɪljəm ˈmeɪkpiːs/ (1811–63) an English writer born in India whose books include *Vanity Fair*

Thai /taɪ/ *n* **1** the people from Thailand **2** the language of Thailand –**Thai** *adj*

Thai·land /ˈtaɪlænd, -lənd/ a country in SE Asia on the Gulf of Thailand; capital Bangkok; population 55,448,000 (1989); its former name was **Siam**

tha·lid·o·mide /θəˈlɪdəmaɪd/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) *tdmk* a drug formerly frequently used for making people calm or sleepy, until it was discovered in the early 1960s that it caused unborn babies to develop wrongly, esp. without arms or legs: *a thalidomide victim*

Thames /temz/ [*the*] **1** the main river flowing through London, and England's most important river: *She lives south of the Thames | The Thames Valley* –see also ISIS and see picture at ESTUARY and colour maps on pages 817 and 818 **2 set the ˈThames on fire** [*usu. in negatives*] *BrE infml* to do anything unusually successful: *Jim's a nice boy, but he'll never set the Thames on fire.*

Thames Flood Bar·ri·er /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ···/ also **Thames Barrier**– [*the*] a structure built at Woolwich in London to control very high TIDES to protect the city from floods

Thames·link /ˈtemzlɪŋk/ a British Rail train service that allows passengers to travel through London across the Thames without changing stations

Thames Tel·e·vi·sion /ˌ· ˈ····, ˌ· ··ˈ··/ one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, transmitting programmes to London and SE England

Thames Wa·ter /ˌ· ˈ··/ a water company in SE England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

than[1] /ðən; *strong* ðæn/ *conj* **1** (used for introducing the second part of an unequal comparison): *I know him better than you (do).* (=you may know him well, but I know him better) | *Jean runs faster than John. | Paul is taller than I am. | Profits are higher than they were last year. | Don't tell them any more than they need to know. | Nothing is more unpleasant than finding|than to find insects in your bath. | They work better together than if they're alone.* **2** (used for introducing the less acceptable choice in statements of what one wants to do): *I'd rather play football than go swimming. | She said she'd rather leave her job than be forced to work for such an unpleasant man.* **3** *fml* except; OTHER than: *You leave me with no option than to resign.* **4** (used esp. after **hardly, scarcely,** and **no sooner**) when; as soon as: *Scarcely had I started to speak than he began to argue with me.*

than[2] *prep* **1** in comparison with: *Paul is taller than me. | They arrived earlier than usual. | They favour gradual rather than radical change. | I was more annoyed than worried when they didn't come home.* (=annoyed but not really very worried) **2** (used in comparing measures or amounts): *She drove at more than 100 miles per hour. | There were fewer than 50 people at the meeting. | Offenders are liable to a fine of not more than £100.*

thane /θeɪn/ *n* **1** also **thegn**– (in early English history) a man belonging to a class of a rank between nobles and ordinary men, who held land from the king in return for military service **2** (in early Scottish history) a low-ranking member of the noble class

thank /θæŋk/ *v* [T (**for**)] **1** to express one's gratefulness to (someone); give thanks to: *The old lady thanked me for helping her across the road. | You've been so helpful – how can we ever thank you?* –see also THANK YOU **2** to regard (someone) as responsible for something bad; blame: *You can thank the government for this latest rise in oil prices.* (=they are to blame) | *He's only got himself to thank that she's left him – he treated her very badly.* **3 I'll thank you** (used when requesting something forcefully or rudely): *I'll thank you to keep quiet while I'm speaking|to mind your own business.* **4 thank God|goodness|heaven** (an expression of great thankfulness): *"Your son's alive." "Thank God!"* **5 thank one's lucky stars** *infml* to be grateful, esp. for a lucky escape: *We can thank our lucky stars that the rope didn't break.*

thank·ful /ˈθæŋkfəl/ *adj* **1** glad that something good has happened: [F+(*that*)|*to-v*] *After the long boring lecture I was thankful that I was|thankful to be out in the fresh air again.* **2** [(**for**)] grateful: *I expected a bigger payment, but I suppose you have to be* **thankful for small mercies.** (=grateful to receive anything, however small) – ~**ness** *n* [U]

thank·ful·ly /ˈθæŋkfəli/ *adv* **1** in a thankful way; with thankful feelings **2** I am thankful that: *Those things are very popular in America, but thankfully they haven't come over here yet.*

thank·less /ˈθæŋkləs/ *adj* **1** not likely to be rewarded with thanks or success: *She has the* **thankless task** *of trying to rehabilitate these young criminals.* **2** *rare* not feeling or showing thanks; ungrateful – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

thanks[1] /θæŋks/ *n* [P] **1** (words expressing) gratefulness: *She did the work without expecting any thanks. | His good leadership has earned the thanks of a grateful nation* **2 thànks to** because of: *The company has had a successful year, thanks mainly to the improvement in export sales. | It was thanks to your stupidity that we lost the game. | It was* **no thanks to** *you that we won.* (=we won in spite of you) –see also VOTE OF THANKS

thanks[2] *interj* THANK YOU

thanks·giv·ing /ˌθæŋksˈgɪvɪŋ◂/ *n* [C;U] (an) expression of gratefulness, esp. to God

Thanksgiving also **Thanksgiving Day** /ˈ··· ˌ·/– *n* [C;U] the fourth Thursday in November, which in the US is a public holiday

Thanksgiving



▶CULTURAL NOTE A day of feasting and prayer, it celebrates the thanksgiving to God in 1621 by the second group of English settlers in what became the US. After losing many men through hunger during their first winter in Plymouth, Massachusetts, the settlers were taught how to grow MAIZE and other crops by the NATIVE AMERICANS. When they gathered (HARVESTed) those crops that autumn they knew they had enough to live on through the second winter, and so they had a feast of thanksgiving with the Native Americans. Today, more Americans travel to see their families on this than on any other day of the year. The Thanksgiving dinner is traditionally TURKEY and STUFFING, SWEET POTATOES, many and various vegetables, and PUMPKIN PIE.◀

thank·you /ˈθæŋkjuː/ *n, adj* [A] (an act of) expressing thanks: *We owe Mrs Jones a special thankyou for all her help. | a thankyou card*

thank you /ˈ· ·/ also **thanks**– *interj* **1** [(**for**)] (used politely to mean) I am grateful to you: *Thank you for the nice present you sent me. | Thank you very much for helping me with my homework. | "Here's what you asked for." "Thanks|Many thanks|Thanks a lot."* **2** (used in certain phrases to show that a situation is very satisfactory and that change is not wanted): *Under the present system these lawyers are* **doing very nicely thank you,** *and they won't welcome any changes.* **3 no, thank you** (used when refusing an offer politely): *"Would you like a cup of tea?" "No, thank you; I've just had one."*

▷USAGE If you are offered something that you do not want, you reply "*No,* **thank you**". If you say only **"Thank you"** it means that you want it: *"Have a drink!"* **"Thank you.** *Beer, please."*◁

that[1] /ðæt/ *determiner* **those** /ðəʊz/ **1** being the person, thing, idea, etc., which is understood or has just been mentioned: *Who was that man I saw you talking to? | Those sweets you gave me were very nice. | The clock struck 12, and at that moment she came in through the door. | Later that same day* (=the day that is presently being talked about), *the President called a meeting of his advisers.* **2** being the one of two or more people or things that is further away in time, place, thought, etc.: *This room (we're in) is a lot warmer than that one (across the*

passage). | *Do you want to sit in this chair (here) or that one (over there)?*

that[2] /ðæt/ *pron* **those** **1** the person, thing, idea, etc., which is understood or has just been mentioned: *Who told you that?* | *Who gave you those?* | *Who was that I saw you with last night?* | *So that's why you don't like him.* | *Come at 6 o'clock – that seems early enough.* | *First we went to the butcher's, and after that* (=then) *we went to the greengrocer's.* | *If you carry on behaving* **like that** (=as you have been doing) *you'll go straight to bed without any supper.* | *She slammed the book down on the table, and* **with that** (=after doing that) *ran angrily out of the room.* **2** (used with **be**) the thing or person that is far or further away in place, time, thought, etc.: *That's your coat on the hook. This one's mine.* | *"Who's that?"* (=the person there) *"It's me."* **3** *fml* the one or kind: *The finest wines are those from France.* | *The cost of the air fare is higher than that of the rail fare.* **4** such a thing or things: *"He cheated me out of all my money and then left me." "Ah well,* **that's life,** *I suppose!"* (=such things happen and must be accepted) | *He makes big promises and never does anything about it.* **That's** *men* **for you!** (=that is typical of men) **5 and all that** also **and that** *BrE nonstandard–* and so on; and all such things: *I used to take drugs and all that when I was young.* **6 that is** in other words: *The fare is reduced for children, that is, anyone under 15 years old.* **7 that's a** (used when telling or persuading a child or animal to do something): *Don't cry, that's a good boy!* **8 that's that** (esp. expressing determination) that is the end of the matter; that settles the matter: *I'm not going to do it and that's that.*

that[3] /ðət; *strong* ðæt/ *conj* **1** (used for introducing various kinds of CLAUSE) **a** (used after verbs, nouns, or adjectives marked [+(*that*)] in this dictionary): *She said (that) she would come early.* | *The rules state quite clearly that smoking is not allowed.* | *Is it true (that) you're getting married?* | *I'm afraid that I can't help you.* | *I'll give it to you on condition (that) you don't break it.* | *The fact that you don't like her has nothing to do with the matter.* **b** (used (as if) in answering a question beginning with **what**): *"What was his reason for not coming to the meeting?" "The reason was that he forgot."* | *The problem is that we didn't bring enough money.* **c** (used esp. after **so** or **such** to express purpose or result): *He was so rude that/He spoke in such a rude manner that she refused to reply.* | *Bring it closer so (that) I can see it better.* | *(fml) Bring it closer so (that) I may see it better.* **d** (used for expressing reason): *We rejoice that you are safe.* **2** (used as a RELATIVE PRONOUN) **a** (as the subject of a CLAUSE) which/who: *Did you see the letter that came today?* | *He's the greatest man that's ever lived.* **b** (as the object of the verb in a CLAUSE) which/whom: *Did you get the books (that) I sent you?* | *There are lots of things (that) I need to do before I leave tonight.* **c** (as the object of a PREPOSITION in a CLAUSE) which/whom: *There's the man (that) I was telling you about.* | *They've found the gun that she was shot with.* **d** (introducing a CLAUSE) in, on, for, or at which: *The day that he came I was out.* | *The speed (that) she drives, I'm surprised she hasn't killed herself!* **e** according to; as far as: *He's never been here that I know of.* **3** *lit* (used for introducing an expression of desire): *Oh that I could fly!* (=I wish I could fly!) | *Would (that) he had never come!* (=I wish he had never come!)

▷ USAGE 1 In ordinary speech **that** can often be left out before a noun clause, especially after common verbs of saying or thinking: *She said (that) it wasn't time.* | *I think (that) it's fine.* | *He told me (that) he agreed.* | *I'm glad (that) you passed your exam.* | *I knew (that) he had arrived.* It is not usually left out in formal English or after more formal verbs of saying: *She stated* **that** *the report was incomplete.* 2 **That** can only be used instead of **who** or **which** when they limit the meaning of a noun more narrowly: *Which of my brothers did you meet? The one* **who/that** *lives in Glasgow, or the one* **who/that** *lives in Leeds?* It cannot be used to introduce additional information in sentences like: *This is my father,* **who** (NOT **that**) *lives in Leeds.* (=I am introducing my father and telling you where he lives)◁

that[4] /ðæt/ *adv* [*usu. in questions and negatives*] *infml* so; to such a degree: *It wasn't that good, actually.* (=it was quite good but not very good) | *We haven't seen* **all that** *much of her recently.* | *(BrE dial) I was that hungry I could have eaten a horse!*

thatch[1] /θætʃ/ *v* [T] to cover (a roof) or the roof of (a building) with thatch: *Our house has a thatched roof.* – ~**er** *n*

thatch[2] *n* **1** [U] roof covering of STRAW, REEDS, etc. **2** [C] *humor* a mass of thick or untidy hair on the head

thatched cot·tage /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a house in the country with a thatched roof. Thatched cottages are considered to be very attractive and old-fashioned. –see colour picture on page 162

Thatch·er[1] /ˈθætʃəʳ/, **De·nis** /ˈden^{j}s/ (1915–) the husband of Margaret Thatcher. He was a director of a large oil company when they married in 1951. The image of Denis Thatcher that British people have is mostly from SATIRICAL television programmes and articles in the press, which say jokingly, with no proof at all, that he is a TIPPLER, and enjoys playing GOLF.

Thatcher[2]**, Mar·ga·ret Hil·da** /ˈmɑːgərət ˈhɪldə ‖ ˈmɑːr-/, also **Mrs Thatcher, Maggie** *infml*– (1925–) the first woman PRIME MINISTER of Britain (1979–90) now officially called **Lady Thatcher**. She was born Margaret Roberts, the daughter of a GROCER in Grantham, in central England. She studied chemistry at Oxford University and, later the law. In 1951 she married Denis Thatcher. As leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 she strongly influenced its political PHILOSOPHY, which during this period came to be known as **Thatcherism**. The Conservatives were returned to power three times under her leadership. During their government there was a move towards PRIVATIZATION; taxes were lowered and INFLATION fell, but unemployment rose. Mrs Thatcher became noted for her determination and was given the NICKNAME "the Iron Lady". She also made a famous speech in which she said "the Lady's not for turning", meaning that she would not change her policies (POLICY) because of criticism. Mrs Thatcher enjoyed increased popularity during the Falklands War, but in the late 1980s her position became more uncertain and then suddenly in November 1990 she lost an important vote within her party and became an ordinary BACKBENCH member of parliament –see also IRON LADY, MONETARISM, THATCHERISM, THATCHERITE – ~**ist** *adj*

Margaret Thatcher



Thatch·er·is·m /ˈθætʃərɪzəm/ *n* [U] the political and economic policies (POLICY) connected with Margaret Thatcher, including MONETARISM, firm control of public spending, and the importance of FREE MARKET CAPITALISM and FREE ENTERPRISE

Thatch·er·ite /ˈθætʃəraɪt/ *n* someone in the British Conservative Party who followed Mrs Thatcher and agreed with all her views and policies (POLICY) –**Thatcherite** *adj*

That's Life /ˌ· ˈ·/ a BBC television programme about ordinary people's problems and rights, famous for showing unusual and amusing things, e.g. dogs that sing and strangely shaped vegetables. It is introduced by Esther Rantzen who has also given publicity to serious health and social questions.

thaw[1] /θɔː/ *v* **1** [I;T (OUT)] to change from a solid frozen state to become liquid, soft, or bendable, as a result of an increase in temperature to above freezing point: *The snow is thawing.* | *Make sure the frozen chicken is properly thawed before you cook it.* | (fig.) *Come and thaw out in front of the fire.* (=get warm) –compare MELT **2** [*it*+I] (of the weather) to become warm enough for snow and ice to melt: *It often doesn't thaw until June in Siberia.* **3** [I] to become friendlier, less severe or formal, etc.: *After their third meeting she began to thaw.*

thaw[2] *n* **1** a period of warm weather during which snow and ice melt **2** an improvement in relations after a period of unfriendliness, esp. between countries

Thaw, John (1942–) an English actor known esp. for playing the parts of two policemen, *The Sweeney* and *Inspector Morse*, on British television

the[1] /ðə; *before vowels* ði; *strong* ðiː/ *definite article, determiner* **1** (used for mentioning a particular thing, either because you already know which one is being talked about or because only one exists): *We have a cat and two*

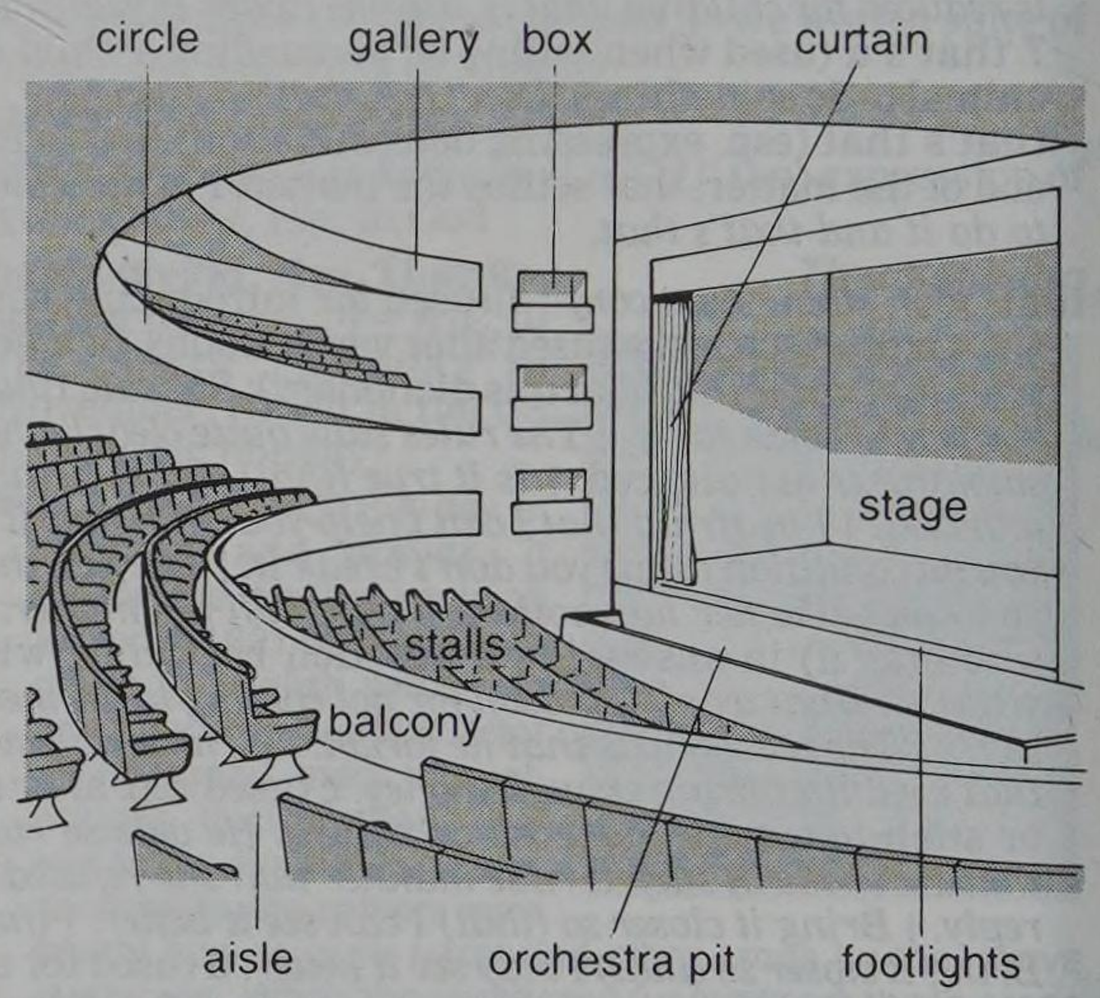
dogs; the cat (=our cat) *is black and the dogs* (=our dogs) *are white.* | *Please take these letters to the post office.* (=it is understood that you know which post office and where it is) (compare *You can pay your phone bill at a post office.* (=any post office)) | *The sun* (=there is only one sun) *is shining.* | *The sky is blue.* | *the Queen of Denmark* (=Denmark has only one queen) | *Another meeting will be held later in the year.* | *Who do you think will win the election?* | *It's the tallest building in the world.* | *I spoke to her on the telephone.* | *For our holidays we went to the South of France.* | *She sailed across the Atlantic in a small boat.* **2** one's: *She hit him on the* (=his) *ear.* | *How's the* (=your) *arm today?* | *The* (=my) *car broke down again today.* | (*infml*) *Have you met the* (=my) *wife?* **3** (used before an adjective to make it into a noun): *How can we help the old and the poor?* (=old people and poor people) | *The English* (=English people) *drink a lot of beer.* | *You're asking me to do the impossible.* (=something that is impossible) | *The accused was|were brought into the court.* **4** (used before a singular noun to make it general): *The lion is a wild animal.* (=lions are wild animals) | *The computer has revolutionized office work.* **5** (used before words for human activities, esp. musical, but usu. not including sports): *He's studying the law.* | *I'm learning the piano.* (=learning to play pianos) | *She plays the violin.* (compare *She plays tennis.*) **6** (used, often with strong pronunciation, for showing that the following noun is best, best-known, most approved, most important, most wanted, etc.): *This is the life for me.* (=this is what I enjoy doing most) | *You can't be* the *Paul McCartney!* **7** (used before names of measures) each: *This cloth is sold by the metre.* (=is measured in metres to calculate its price) | *We're paid by the hour.* | (*esp. BrE*) *These apples are 90p the dozen.* (=you get 12 for 90p) **8** (used before a noun that stands for the activity connected with it): *He took to the bottle.* (=began drinking a lot of alcohol) | *a campaign to bring back the electric chair* (=the system of punishing people by death in an electric chair) **9** (used before the plural of 20, 30, 40, etc., to show a period of ten years): *In the 30s* (=from 1930 to 1939) *there was a lot of unemployment.* **10** (used before a noun, esp. in negatives, to show an amount or degree needed for a purpose) enough: *I haven't the time to talk to you just now.* | *He didn't have the common sense to send for a doctor.* **11** (used when describing someone or something in expressions of strong feeling): *He's stolen my parking space, the bastard!* | *This screw won't go in properly, the stupid thing!* | *"He's won a holiday in Hawaii." "The lucky devil!"* **12** (used after **how, what, where, who,** and **why** in expressions of strong feeling): *What the hell are you doing here?*

▷ USAGE 1 **The** is not used with certain words, except when there is something else before or after the noun that tells us which one or what kind is meant. This is true of the following: **a** abstract nouns, such as *music, history, time, beauty, work.* Compare *Life is difficult* and **The** *life of a writer is difficult.* **b** names of substances and materials, such as *wine, silk, coal, gold, sugar*: *She gave us beer and cheese; I drank* **the** *beer but I didn't eat* **the** *cheese.* **c** names of times after *at, by, on*: *at sunset* | *by night* | *on Monday* (Compare *during* **the** *night* | *on* **the** *Monday after Christmas.*) **d** names of meals after *at, before, during, for,* and the verb *have*: *after|at|before|during breakfast* | *coffee for breakfast* | *When do you have breakfast?* (Compare **The** *breakfast she gave us was good.*) 2 **The** is not used **a** with most names of diseases: *He's got smallpox.* **b** in many fixed expressions such as: *by car, at school, in bed, in prison, arm in arm, face to face, husband and wife, from beginning to end* **c** after [T+*obj*+*n*] verbs describing a change of state: *They made him President.* | *They crowned him king.* | *They appointed her captain.* **d** when someone is directly addressed: *Come quickly, doctor!* 3 Names and titles either include **the** as part of the name, or they do not. These must be learnt. But note **a** Some ordinary words can be used like names. Compare **the** *father of a family* and *I'll ask Father!* **b** Names can be used like ordinary words. Compare *London is a big city* and **the** *London of the 1890s* (=London during this period).◁

the[2] *adv* **1** (used in comparisons, to show that two things happen together): *The more he eats, the fatter he gets.* | *"When do you want this done?" "The sooner the better."* **2** (used in comparisons, to show that someone or something is more, less, etc., than before): *He's had a holiday, and looks (all) the better for it.* | *She tried to explain it to me, but I was* **none the wiser.** (=I still did not understand) **3** (used for showing that someone or something is more than any other): *He likes you the best.* | *I had the greatest* (=extreme) *difficulty understanding her.*

thea·tre *BrE*‖**theater** *AmE* /ˈθɪətəʳ/ *n* **1** [C;*the*] (a special building or place for) the performance of plays. Going to the theatre is very expensive in London, less so in other areas, and is thought by some people to be an activity for clever people, except if one goes to see a musical. In the US it is also thought very expensive, esp. in New York, and Americans visiting Britain often go to the theatre because they find it cheaper than in the US: *London's theatres* | *an evening at the theatre* | *an open-air theatre* | *Do you enjoy the theatre?* **2** [(*the*) U] the work or activity of people who write or act in plays: *modern Russian theatre* | *She's been in the theatre all her life.* —compare DRAMA **3** [C] ‖ *usu.* **auditorium** *AmE*— a room with rows of seats one above the other, where people can watch or listen to the stated activity: *a lecture theatre* **4** [C] a scene of important military events: *the Pacific theatre of World War II* **5** [C] *BrE* ‖ **operating room, OR** *AmE*— an OPERATING THEATRE: *a theatre nurse* **6** [C] *esp. AustrE & AmE* a CINEMA

theatre



thea·tre·go·er /ˈθɪətəˌgəʊəʳ‖-tər-/ *n* a person who regularly goes to the theatre

theatre in the round /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ *n* a theatre with the stage in the middle and the people sitting on (almost) all sides

the·at·ri·cal /θiˈætrɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of or for the theatre: *a theatrical company* **2** *usu. derog* (of a person or their behaviour) showy and unnatural; HISTRIONIC —**~ly** /kli/ *adv*

the·at·ri·cals /θiˈætrɪkəlz/ *n* [P] stage performances: *amateur theatricals*

Thebes /θiːbz/ an ancient city in S Egypt, where the TOMB (=grave) of Tutankhamen is to be found

thee /ðiː/ *pron old use* (object form of **thou**) you

theft /θeft/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the crime of taking someone else's property from a place; stealing: *The building has been insured against fire and theft.*

thegn /θeɪn/ *n* a THANE (1)

their /ðəʳ; *strong* ðeəʳ/ *determiner* (*possessive form of* **they**) **1** of or belonging to them: *They washed their faces.* | *He was surprised by their interest.* | *They spend all their time together.* | *Has anyone here lost their watch?* **2** (with general meaning): *Everyone wants what is theirs by right.* —compare HIS[1] (2); see EVERYONE (USAGE)

theirs /ðeəz‖ðeərz/ *pron* (*possessive form of* **they**) **1** of those people, animals, or things already mentioned: *I do my work, and they do theirs.* (=their work) | *Our dog is a male, theirs is a female|theirs are females.* | *She's a friend of theirs.* **2** (with general meaning): *Everyone wants what is theirs by right.* —compare HIS[2] (2)

the·is·m /ˈθiːɪzəm/ *n* [U] the belief that a personal God exists and that he has made his existence known through the Bible, church, dreams, etc. —compare DEISM —**-ist** *n* —**-istic** /θiːˈɪstɪk/ *adj* —**-istically** /kli/ *adv*

them[1] /ðəm; *strong* ðem/ *pron* (*object form of* **they**): *Where*

are my shoes? I can't find them. | *He bought them drinks.* | *He bought drinks for them.* —see ME (USAGE)

them[2] /ðem/ *determiner nonstandard* those: *Did you see them shoes she was wearing?*

theme[1] /θi:m/ *n* **1** the subject of a talk, piece of writing, etc.: *His stories are linked by the theme of self-discovery.* | *The theme of this year's journalism conference is the question of censorship.* **2** a short simple tune on which a piece of music is based **3** *AmE* a short piece of writing, esp. done for school: *Your homework tonight is to write a two-page theme on the subject of pollution.*

theme[2] *v* [T] to make (things) appear to be similar or all on one theme: *a set of themed attractions, all based on aspects of the Wild West*

theme park /ˈ· ·/ *n* an outdoor area containing amusements, such as games of skill and big machines to ride on, which are sometimes all based on a single subject (e.g. space travel) —see also ALTON TOWERS, DISNEYLAND

theme song /ˈ· ·/ also **theme tune**— *n* a song or tune often repeated during a musical play, cinema picture, etc. — compare SIGNATURE TUNE

them·selves /ðəmˈselvz/ *pron* **1** (*reflexive form of* **they**): *They're enjoying themselves.* | *They bought themselves a new car.* | *They're pleased with themselves.* | *I hope nobody will hurt themselves* **2** (*strong form of* **they**): *They built the house themselves.* **3** *infml* (in) their usual state of mind or body: *They soon* **came to themselves.** (=regained consciousness) | *They don't seem to be feeling themselves this morning.* (=feeling as they usually do) **4 (all) by themselves** alone; without help: *They did it all by themselves.* **5 in themselves** without considering the rest: *things that are unimportant in themselves* **6 to themselves** for their private use; not shared: *a whole house to themselves* —see YOURSELF (USAGE)

then[1] /ðen/ *adv* **1** at that time: *We lived in the country then.* | *I was still unmarried then.* | *He met the princess, or Lady Diana Spencer as she then was, in 1975.* | *Will we still be alive then?* | *I hope we'll have finished* **by/before then.** | *When you see her, then you'll understand.* | **From then on** (=starting at that time), *he worked harder.* **2** next; afterwards: *Let's go for a drink and then go home.* | *Dinner was followed by coffee and then came the speeches.* | *First Jane and then the others started clapping.* **3** in that case: *If you want to go home, then go.* | *What shall we do, then? Swim?* **4** as a result; therefore: *If x=5 and y=3, then xy=15.* | *Go out by the back door, then no one will see you.* **5** besides; also: *You must ask John to the party, and then there's Paul — don't forget him.* **6** (used when expressing a general opinion about something that has gone before or something one has just heard): *The result of all this activity, then, was that the government became very unpopular.* | *That must have been a surprise, then!* **7 but then (again)** however: *I like watching television but then (again) I wouldn't miss it if I didn't have one.* — see also **now and then** (NOW[1]), **there and then** (THERE[1])

then[2] *adj* [A] being so at the time: *The matter was reported to the then head of the secret service.*

thence /ðens/ *adv fml* **1** from that place; after leaving that place: *We made our way to the coast and thence by sea to France.* **2** *fml rare* therefore; for that reason: *Just because he has remained silent, may we thence deduce that he has some guilty secret?*

thence·forth /ðensˈfɔ:θ‖ˈðensfɔ:rθ/ also **thence·for·ward** /ðensˈfɔ:wəd‖-ˈfɔ:rwərd/— *adv fml* from that time on

theo- see WORD FORMATION

the·od·o·lite /θiˈɒdəlaɪt‖θiˈɑ:-/ *n* an instrument used by SURVEYORS for measuring angles

the·o·lo·gian /ˌθi:əˈləʊdʒən/ *n* a person who has studied theology

theological sem·i·na·ry /ˌ···· ˈ···/ also **seminary**— *n esp. AmE* a college for the study of theology, esp. for the training of MINISTERS or priests

the·ol·o·gy /θiˈɒlədʒi‖θiˈɑ:-/ *n* **1** [U] the study of religion and religious ideas and beliefs: *He read/studied theology at university.* **2** [C;U] a particular body of beliefs about religion: *According to Muslim theology there is only one God.* —**-ogical** /ˌθi:əˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑ:-/ *adj*: *Priests are trained at theological colleges.* —**-ogically** /kli/ *adv*

theo·rem /ˈθɪərəm/ *n tech* (esp. in MATHEMATICS) a statement that can be shown to be true by reasoning

theo·ret·i·cal /θɪəˈretɪkəl/ also **the·o·ret·ic** /θɪəˈretɪk/— *adj* **1** based on or concerning theory, not practical experience: *theoretical physics* **2** existing only in theory, not in practice; HYPOTHETICAL: *the theoretical ancestors of modern man* | *It's a theoretical possibility, but I don't suppose it will happen.*

theo·ret·i·cally /θɪəˈretɪkli/ *adv* **1** in a theoretical way; not practically: *First I'll explain how it works theoretically, then I'll give you a practical demonstration.* **2** according to theory but not really: *Theoretically he's in charge, but in fact his secretary takes all the decisions.*

theo·rist /ˈθɪərɪst/ also **theo·re·ti·cian** /ˌθɪərəˈtɪʃən/— *n* a person who forms or studies the theory of a subject: *a leading political theorist*

theo·rize also **-rise** *BrE* /ˈθɪəraɪz/ *v* [I (**about, on**);T+*that*;~~*obj*~~] to form a theory or theories; SPECULATE: *It's easy to theorize about the reasons for the crisis, but we don't have the facts.*

theo·ry /ˈθɪəri/ *n* **1** [C] a reasonable or scientifically acceptable explanation for a fact or event, which has not been proved to be true: *According to Darwin's theories, human beings and monkeys are descended from the same ancient animal.* | *to disprove a theory* [+*that*] *The detective's theory is that the murderer was well known to the victim.* **2** [U] (the part of a science or art that deals with) general principles and knowledge as opposed to practical methods or skills; set of rules or principles for the study of a subject: *musical theory* | *We have two chemistry exams, one on theory and one practical.* | *political theory* | (fig.) **In theory** *the train should arrive at 9.15* (=this is the official time of arrival), *but* **in practice** *it is quite often late.* —compare PRACTICE **3** [U] (in MATHEMATICS) a body of principles, theorems, etc., belonging to one part of the subject: *Set theory deals with the behaviour of groups of mathematical elements.*

theory of e·vo·lu·tion /ˌ·· · ··ˈ··/ [*the*] the theory that all beings developed from one original type of being, most famously supported by Charles Darwin, who also suggested that only the fittest (FIT[2](2)) types live on, while the rest die

theory of rel·a·tiv·i·ty /ˌ·· · ··ˈ···/ [*the*] *tech* one of two theories expressed by Albert Einstein about the relationship between time, size, and mass

the·os·o·phy /θiˈɒsəfi‖-ˈɑ:-/ *n* [U] **1** teaching about God and the world, esp. involving direct experience of, or understanding of God **2** (*often cap.*) the teachings of an American movement which follows Buddhist and Hindu ideas about EVOLUTION and REINCARNATION —**theosophist** *n* —**theosophical** /ˌθi:əˈsɒfɪkəl◂‖-ˈsɑ:-/ *adj* — **theosophically** /-kli/ *adv*

ther·a·peu·tic /ˌθerəˈpju:tɪk◂/ *adj* **1** of or for the treating or curing of disease: *therapeutic exercises/diets* **2** *infml* having a good effect on one's health or state of mind: *I find swimming/sewing very therapeutic.* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

ther·a·peu·tics /ˌθerəˈpju:tɪks/ *n* [U] the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment and cure of disease

ther·a·pist /ˈθerəpɪst/ *n* **1** a specialist in a particular branch of therapy: *a speech therapist* **2** *AmE* a PSYCHOANALYST

ther·a·py /ˈθerəpi/ *n* [C;U] the treatment of illnesses of the mind or body, esp. without drugs or operations: *He's having therapy for his arthritis.* | *She's been* **in therapy** *for years* (she has been having PSYCHOANALYSIS for years). — see also GROUP THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSIOTHERAPY, PSYCHOTHERAPY, RADIOTHERAPY, SPEECH THERAPY

Ther·a·va·da /ˌθerəˈvɑ:də/ *adj* of the form of Buddhism practised in Kampuchea, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It is based on the teachings of the Buddha as recorded in the Pali Canon —compare MAHAYANA

there[1] /ðeəʳ/ *adv* **1** to, at, or in that place: *I liked living there.* | *Go and stand over there.* (compare *Come and stand over here.*) | *It's cold out there.* | *I like Scotland; the people there are very friendly.* **2** at that point: *He brought his historical account up to the 18th century and stopped there.* | *There I disagree with you.* **3** (used for drawing attention to someone or something, usu. followed by the verb if the subject is not a pronoun): *There goes John.* | *There he goes.* | *Hello there!* **4** *infml* (usu. used after a noun) being present in that place: *Can you pass me that book there?* | (*nonstandard*) *When are you going to get that there hole mended?* **5 all there** *infml* [*usu. in negatives*]

healthy in the mind: *I don't think she's all there.* (=I think she's mad.) **6 because it is there** the answer given by a mountain climber called George Mallory when asked why he wanted to climb a certain mountain **7 get there** *infml* to succeed in reaching an aim, completing a job, etc.: *You'll get there in the end if you work hard!* **8 there and back** to a place and back again: *It's 50 miles there and back.* **9 there and then** also **then and there**– at that time and place, esp. without any delay: *She offered him the job and he accepted there and then.* **10 there's a** (used when telling or persuading a child or animal to do something): *Don't speak with your mouth full, there's a good boy!* **11 there you are: a** here is what you wanted: *There you are! A nice cup of tea.* **b** I told you so: *There you are. I knew I was right.* **12 there you go** *infml* **a** you are doing again what you usually do: *There you go, talking about people behind their backs again.* **b** (used for expressing sad acceptance of an unfortunate event): *He lost all his money; well, there you go.*

there[2] /ðeəʳ, ðəʳ/ *pron* (used for showing that something or someone exists or happens, usu. as the subject of **be, seem,** or **appear**): *There's a fly in my soup.* | *There's someone at the door to see you.* | *Is there anything you want to tell me?* | *There aren't any cakes left.* | *There appears to have been a nasty accident.* | *There don't seem to be any missing.* | *I don't want there to be any doubt about this.* | *Everything was silent, and then there came a strange knocking at the door.* | *(fml) At no stage has there been any consultation with the director about this.*

▷ USAGE 1 **There** tells us that someone or something that has not been mentioned before exists, happens, etc. It is more natural to say **There's** *a man at the door* than *A man is at the door.* 2 If the person or thing has already been mentioned or thought of, **there** cannot be used. Compare *"Is* **there** *anyone outside?" "Yes,* **there's** *someone waiting"* and *"Who's that man outside?" "It's Harry."* (=we already know that someone is outside). 3 Do not confuse **there** (usually /ðəʳ/) in these sentences with **there** (/ðeəʳ/) the adverb of place. Compare the pronunciation of **there** in **there's** (=I am mentioning for the first time) *a man waiting to see you* and *Look!* **There's** (=in that place) *that man I was telling you about!* In American English, both of these usages are usu. pronounced in the same way.◁

there[3] /ðeəʳ/ *interj* (used for expressing victory, satisfaction, encouragement, sympathy, etc.): *There! Do you feel better now?* | **There, there.** *Stop crying.* | *There. I told you I was right!* | *It only lasted a week, but there! What can you expect for £5?*

there·a·bouts /ˌðeərəˈbaʊts/ also **there·a·bout** /-ˈbaʊt/ *AmE– adv* near that place, time, number, etc.: *I'll see you at 9 o'clock or thereabouts.*

there·af·ter /ðeəʳˈɑːftəʳ‖-ˈæf-/ *adv fml* after that in time or order; afterwards: *Thereafter we had no further communication with them.* –compare HEREAFTER[1]

there·by /ðeəˈbaɪ, ˈðeəbaɪ‖-ər-/ *adv fml or law* by that means; by doing or saying that: *He became a British citizen, thereby gaining the right to vote.* –compare HEREBY

there·fore /ˈðeəfɔːʳ‖ˈðeər-/ *adv rather fml* **1** as a result; for that reason; so: *The item you requested is no longer available and therefore we are|and we are therefore returning your cheque.* | *These birds are very rare and therefore protected by law.* **2** (used in reasoning) as this proves; it follows that: *I think, therefore I exist.*

there·in /ðeəʳˈɪn/ *adv* **1** *fml or law* in that (place or piece of writing): *... and everything therein contained* –compare HEREIN **2** *fml* in that particular matter: *She would never agree to marry him and therein lay the cause of his unhappiness.*

there·in·af·ter /ˌðeərɪnˈɑːftəʳ‖-ˈæf-/ *adv law* later in the same official paper, statement, etc.

There is a green hill far a·way /ˌ·ˌ··ˌ··ˌ··ˌ··ˈ·/ a well-known HYMN (=religious song) sung at Easter

there·of /ðeəʳˈɒv‖-ˈɑːv/ *adv fml or law* of or belonging to that or it: *All citizens of the United States are ruled by the laws thereof.* –compare HEREOF

there·on /ðeəʳˈɒn‖-ˈɔːn, -ˈɑːn/ *adv fml* **1** on that or it: *I read the report and wrote some remarks thereon.* **2** THEREUPON (1)

there·to /ðeəˈtuː‖ðeəʳˈtuː/ *adv fml or law* to that (agreement or piece of writing): *... any conditions attaching thereto ...*

there·un·der /ðeəʳˈʌndəʳ/ *adv fml or law* **1** under that, it, or them: *the land, with any minerals found thereunder...* **2** below, following, or in accordance with (something written): *the items listed thereunder*

there·up·on /ˌðeərəˈpɒn, ˈðeərəpɒn‖-pɔːn, -pɑːn/ *adv fml* **1** as a result of that; about that matter: *... if all are agreed thereupon ...* **2** without delay after that; then: *Thereupon she asked me to marry her.* –compare HEREUPON

therm /θɜːm‖θɜːrm/ *n* (a measurement of heat equal to) 100,000 British Thermal Units, used in Britain for measuring the amount of gas used by each user

therm- see WORD FORMATION

ther·mal[1] /ˈθɜːməl‖ˈθɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [A] of, using, producing, or caused by heat: *thermal insulation designed to prevent the loss of body heat* **2** naturally warm or hot: *thermal springs*

thermal[2] *n* a rising current of warm air, esp. as used by GLIDER pilots to gain height

ther·mi·on·ics /ˌθɜːmiˈɒnɪks‖ˌθɜːrmiˈɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the branch of science that deals with the outward flow of ELECTRONS from heated metal **–-ic** *adj*

thermionic valve /ˌ···· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **thermionic tube** *AmE– n tech* a system of ELECTRODES arranged in an airless glass or metal container, esp. used to control the flow of current in radios and televisions

ther·mo·dy·nam·ics /ˌθɜːməʊdaɪˈnæmɪks‖ˌθɜːr-/ *n* [U] the branch of science that deals with the relationship between heat and the power that works and drives machines, and the making of one into the other

ther·mom·e·ter /θəˈmɒmɪtəʳ‖θərˈmɑː-/ *n* an instrument for measuring and showing temperature, esp. a thin glass tube containing a special liquid, usu. MERCURY, that rises and falls as the temperature rises and falls; usu. used under the tongue or ARMPIT or in the RECTUM –see also CLINICAL THERMOMETER; see INSTRUMENT (USAGE)

ther·mo·nu·cle·ar /ˌθɜːməʊˈnjuːkliəʳ◂‖ˌθɜːrməʊˈnuː-/ *adj* of, using, or caused by the very high temperatures that result when the central parts of atoms are joined together: *a thermonuclear device* (=bomb) | *thermonuclear war* (=using such bombs)

ther·mo·plas·tic /ˌθɜːməʊˈplæstɪk◂‖ˌθɜːrmə-/ *n* [C;U] *tech* a plastic that is soft and bendable when heated – **thermoplastic** *adj*

ther·mos /ˈθɜːməs‖ˈθɜːr-/ *n tdmk for* FLASK (3)

ther·mo·set·ting /ˈθɜːməʊˌsetɪŋ‖ˈθɜːr-/ *adj tech* (of plastic) that becomes hard and unbendable after having been once heated and shaped

thermos flask /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a FLASK (3) –see picture at FLASK

ther·mo·stat /ˈθɜːməstæt‖ˈθɜːr-/ *n* an apparatus that can be set to keep a room, machine, etc., at an even temperature by disconnecting and reconnecting a supply of heat when necessary –see picture at ENGINE

THES /ˌtiː eɪtʃ iː ˈes/ *abbrev. for* TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

the·sau·rus /θɪˈsɔːrəs/ *n* a book of words that are put in groups together according to connections between their meanings rather than in an alphabetical list –compare DICTIONARY

these /ðiːz/ *plural of* THIS –see ONE (USAGE)

The·se·us /ˈθiːsiəs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a brave man of Athens who killed the Minotaur and married the queen of the Amazons

the·sis /ˈθiːsɪs/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ **1** a long piece of writing on a particular subject, based on original work and written for a higher (POSTGRADUATE) university degree, esp. the degree of PHD: *a doctoral thesis* | *I'm writing my thesis on Shakespeare's use of metaphor.* –compare DISSERTATION **2** *fml* an opinion or statement put forward and supported by reasoned argument: *Their main thesis is that inflation is caused by increases in the money supply.*

thes·pi·an /ˈθespiən/ *adj, n pomp or humor* (*often cap.*) (of) an actor, esp. in the theatre: *the thespian art*

thews /θjuːz‖θuːz/ *n* [P] *lit* **1** muscles **2** physical strength

they /ðeɪ/ *pron* (used as the subject of a sentence) **1** those people, animals, or things: *My brother and sister are here. They visit every week.* | *Take these books; they might be useful.* **2** people in general: *They say prices are going to*

ARCTIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
INDIAN OCEAN
ANTARCTICA
Bering Strait
Arctic Circle
Alaska (U.S.A.)
CANADA
GULF OF ALASKA
HUDSON BAY
BAFFIN BAY
GREENLAND (Denmark)
Spitzbergen (Nor.)
GREENLAND SEA
Godthab
Reykjavik
ICELAND
Newfoundland
Ottawa
Washington D.C.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Azores (Port.)
Bermuda (U.K.)
Tropic of Cancer
GULF OF MEXICO
MEXICO
Mexico City
Havana
Nassau
BAHAMAS
CUBA
JAMAICA
HAITI
DOM.REP.
Kingston
Santo Domingo
Puerto Rico (U.S.A.)
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
DOMINICA
ST.LUCIA
BARBADOS
GRENADA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CARIBBEAN SEA
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Guatemala City
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Tegucigalpa
EL SALVADOR
NICARAGUA
Managua
COSTA RICA
San José
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Panama City
VENEZUELA
Caracas
COLOMBIA
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Georgetown
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Paramaribo
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ARGENTINA
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South Georgia (U.K.)
Tropic of Capricorn
Ascension I. (U.K.)
St. Helena (U.K.)
Tristan da Cunha (U.K.)
Kerguelen Is. (Fr.)
Antarctic Circle
NORWAY
SWEDEN
FINLAND
Oslo
Stockholm
Helsinki
ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
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HUNG.
Budapest
MOLDAVIA
Kishinev
CROATIA
BOS.
Zagreb
YUGO.
Belgrade
ROM.
Bucharest
BUL.
Sofia
BLACK SEA
GEORGIA
Tbilisi
ARMENIA
Yerevan
CASPIAN SEA
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
Almaty
Alma Ata
Bishkek
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SEA OF OKHOTSK
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Amman
ISRAEL
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IRAN
Tehran
AFGHANISTAN
Kabul
Islamabad
KUWAIT
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Riyadh
QATAR
BAHRAIN
U.A.E.
Muscat
RED SEA
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Thimbu
BHUTAN
Dhaka
BANG.
BURMA (MYANMAR)
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HONG KONG (U.K.)
Taipei
TAIWAN
SOUTH CHINA SEA
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VIETNAM
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PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Port Moresby
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TUVALU
VANUATU
Wallis Is. (Fr.)
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WESTERN SAMOA
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Canberra
Tasmania
TASMAN SEA
NEW ZEALAND
Wellington
Hawaii (U.S.A.)
Tropic of Ca
Equato
Mauritania
Nouakchott
CAPE VERDE
SENEGAL
Dakar
THE GAMBIA
Banjul
GUINEA BISSAU
Bissau
GUINEA
Conakry
SIERRA LEONE
Freetown
LIBERIA
Monrovia
Yamoussoukro
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Accra
GHANA
TOGO
BENIN
Niamey
BURKINA FASO
Bamako
MALI
NIGER
NIGERIA
Abuja
CAMEROON
Yaoundé
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Bangui
CHAD
N'Djamena
Khartoum
SUDAN
Addis Ababa
ETHIOPIA
REP. OF YEMEN
Sana'a
DJIBOUTI
SOMALIA
Mogadishu
SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPÉ
E.G.
Libreville
GABON
CONGO
Brazzaville
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Kinshasa
Kampala
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KENYA
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RWANDA
BURUNDI
TANZANIA
Dodoma
SEYCHELLES
Luanda
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
Lusaka
MALAWI
Lilongwe
MOZAMBIQUE
Harare
ZIMBABWE
COMOROS
Antananarivo
MADAGASCAR
MAURITIUS
Réunion (Fr.)
NAMIBIA
Walvis Bay (S.A.)
Windhoek
BOTSWANA
Gaborone
Pretoria
Maputo
SWAZILAND
Maseru
LESOTHO
SOUTH AFRICA

Western Sahara-administered by Morocco

ALB.	-Albania
AUS.	-Austria
BANG.	-Bangladesh
BEL.	-Belgium
BOS.	-Bosnia & Herzegovina
BUL.	-Bulgaria
CAMB.	-Cambodia
DOM.REP.	-Dominican Republic
E.G.	-Equatorial Guinea
HUNG.	-Hungary
JORD.	-Jordan
LEB.	-Lebanon
LUX.	-Luxembourg
NETH.	-Netherlands
ROM.	-Romania
RUS.FED.	-Russian Federation
S.	-Slovenia
SLOVAK.	-Slovakia
SUR.	-Suriname
SWZ.	-Switzerland
U.A.E.	-United Arab Emirates
YUGO.	-Yugoslavia

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N

CANADA

Seattle

Washington

Oregon

Idaho

Rocky Mountains

Montana

North Da

PACIFIC OCEAN

California

Nevada

Great Salt Lake

Salt Lake City

Wyoming

South

Sierra Nevada

Utah

Denver

Colorado

San Francisco

Las Vegas

Colorado River

Golden Gate Bridge

HOLLYWOOD

Grand Canyon

New Mexico

Hoover Dam

Los Angeles

Disneyland

San Diego

Phoenix

Rio Grande

Arizona

El Paso

Honolulu

Hawaii

MEXICO

The United States of America is a very large country which is divided into 50 separate states. There are many different types of weather and land, with desert in the south west near Mexico and snowy mountains in Alaska (the most northern part). New York is the biggest city in the US, but the capital city, where the President lives, is Washington D.C. Native Americans lived in America for a long time before large numbers of people came from Europe to live there.

The United States is the world's richest and most industrial country. Most of the industries are in the north eastern part of the country, particularly in the area around the Great Lakes.



Central New York City

1376

Central Park

Broadway

Guggenheim Museum

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Hudson River

Rockefeller Center

5th Avenue

Madison Avenue

Times Square

United Nations headquarters

Queens

Lincoln Tunnel

Empire State Building

Grand Central station

Queens Midtown tunnel

Madison Square Garden

East River

NEW JERSEY

Manhattan

Madison Square Park

Greenwich Village

SoHo

Brooklyn Bridge

World Trade Center

Wall Street

Battery Park

1 km.

Statue of Liberty

Liberty Island

Brooklyn

increase again. (=that is the general opinion) | (*infml*) *John's as clever as they come.* (=very clever) **3** the government, local council, or other unknown people who control one's life: *I see they're putting up taxes again|digging up the road again.* **4** (used in order to avoid saying **he** or **she** after a singular noun or pronoun when one wants to include people of either sex): *If anyone has any information on this subject, will they please let me know afterwards.* —see EVERYONE (USAGE), HE (USAGE)

they'd /ðeɪd/ *short for* (*in compound tenses*): **1** they had: *If only they'd been there.* **2** they would: *They'd never believe you.*

they'll /ðeɪl/ *short for:* they will: *They'll arrive tomorrow.*

they're /ðəʳ; *strong* ðeəʳ, ðeɪəʳ/ *short for:* they are: *They're the best you can buy.*

they've /ðeɪv/ *short for* (*esp. in compound tenses*): they have: *They've lost again.* | (*esp. BrE*) *They've a wonderful new house.*

thi·a·mine /ˈθaɪəmiːn/ also **vitamin B_1, aneurin**— *n* [U] a natural chemical substance found in some foods which is necessary to prevent some illnesses: *People who do not receive enough thiamine in their diets should take a vitamin supplement.*

thick[1] /θɪk/ *adj* **1 a** having a large or larger than average distance between opposite surfaces; not thin: *a thick book | thick walls | a thick layer of snow* **b** (of a round object) wide in relation to length: *thick wire* **2** [after *n*] measuring in depth, width, or from side to side: *The castle walls are two metres thick.* **3** (of liquid) not watery; not flowing easily: *thick soup* **4** difficult to see through; DENSE: *thick mist | thick clouds of smoke coming out of the factory chimneys* **5** [F+**with**] full of or covered with (esp. something unpleasant): *The air was thick with smoke.* | *furniture thick with dust | The whole area was thick with policemen.* **6** closely packed; made of many objects set close together: *a thick forest | long thick hair* **7 a** (of an ACCENT[1]) very noticeable: *a thick Liverpool accent* **b** (of speech or the voice) not clear: *He spoke in a voice thick with emotion.* **8** *BrE infml* aching and/or unable to think clearly: *My head's rather thick this morning after all that beer I drank last night.* **9** *infml* (of a person) stupid; slow to understand **10** [F] *infml, esp. BrE* beyond what is reasonable or satisfactory: *It's* **a bit thick** *to expect me to work until midnight!* **11** [F (**with**)] *infml* very friendly: *Jean and John seem very thick (with each other).* **12 as thick as two (short) planks** *BrE sl* very stupid **13 as thick as thieves** *infml* very friendly **14 get/give a thick ear** *BrE* to receive or give a blow on the ear causing it to swell as a punishment (esp. used in threats): *I'll give you a thick ear if you pull the dog's tail again!* **15 thick on the ground** *infml, esp. BrE* plentiful: *Grants for the arts are not too thick on the ground these days.* **16 the thick end of** *BrE infml* almost as much as (an amount): *The car cost me the thick end of £10,000.* —see also THICKNESS —**~ly** *adv*

thick[2] *adv* **1** so as to be thick; thickly: *The flowers grew thickest near the wall.* **2 lay it on thick** *AmE infml* to praise very much but perhaps not very sincerely; FLATTER: *He laid it on pretty thick about her beautiful singing voice.* **3 thick and fast** *infml* quickly and in large numbers: *The election results are coming in thick and fast.*

thick[3] *n* **1** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the part, place, time, etc., of greatest activity: *in the thick of the battle|the rush hour traffic* **2 through thick and thin** through both good and bad times; faithfully: *She stuck by* (=remained with) *her husband through thick and thin.*

thick·en /ˈθɪkən/ *v* [I;T] to make or become thick: *The mist is thickening.* | *I always thicken my soups by adding flour.* —see also **the plot thickens** (PLOT)

thick·en·er /ˈθɪkənəʳ, ˈθɪknəʳ/ also **thick·en·ing** /ˈθɪkənɪŋ, ˈθɪknɪŋ/— *n* [C;U] a substance used for thickening a liquid: *gravy thickener*

thick·et /ˈθɪkɪt/ *n* a thick growth of bushes and small trees: *The fox hid in the thicket where the dogs could not reach it.*

thick·head·ed /ˌθɪkˈhedɪd◂/ also **thick·wit·ted** /ˌθɪkˈwɪtɪd◂/— *adj infml* extremely stupid: *He's so thick-headed he can't understand the simplest instructions.*

thick·ness /ˈθɪknɪs/ *n* **1** [C;U] the quality or degree of being thick: *The beam has a thickness of 4 inches.* | *The length of nails you need depends on the thickness of the planks.* **2** [C (**of**)] a LAYER[1] (1): *I wrapped the ice cream in three thicknesses of newspaper to keep it cool.*

thick·set /ˌθɪkˈset◂/ *adj* having a broad strong body; STOCKY: *The boxing champion was short and thickset.*

thick-skinned /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj sometimes derog* insensitive, esp. to blame, disapproval, etc.; not easily offended

thief /θiːf/ *n* **thieves** /θiːvz/ a person who steals, esp. without using violence: *a car thief* —compare BURGLAR, ROBBER

thieve /θiːv/ *v* **1** [I] *infml or lit* to steal things; rob people; act as a thief: *Those thieving children keep stealing our apples.* **2** [T] *nonstandard* to steal

thiev·ing /ˈθiːvɪŋ/ also **thiev·e·ry** /ˈθiːvəri/ *fml or lit*— *n* [U] stealing; THEFT

thiev·ish /ˈθiːvɪʃ/ *adj lit* of or like a thief: *thievish habits* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

thigh /θaɪ/ *n* the top part of the human leg, between the knee and the HIP —see picture at SKELETON

thim·ble /ˈθɪmbəl/ *n* a small protective metal or plastic cap put over the finger that pushes the needle during sewing

thim·ble·ful /ˈθɪmbəlfʊl/ *n* [(**of**)] *infml* a very small quantity (of liquid)

thin[1] /θɪn/ *adj* **-nn- 1 a** having a small or smaller than average distance between opposite surfaces; not thick: *a thin board | thin ice | thin summer clothes | Keep your voice down or they'll hear you in the next room — the walls are* **paper-thin. b** (of a round object) narrow in relation to length; fine: *thin string|wire* **2** having little fat on the body; not fat: *She looked thin after her illness.* —see USAGE **3** *often derog* (of a liquid) watery; flowing easily; weak: *thin beer | This sauce is too thin.* **4** not closely packed; made of few objects widely separated; SPARSE: *Your hair's getting very thin.* | *a thin audience | A thin rain began to fall.* **5** easy to see through; not DENSE: *thin mist | The air on top of the mountain was very thin.* **6** (of a sound or note) lacking in strength and fullness: *a thin high voice* **7** *derog* (esp. of something said or written) not having the necessary qualities to gain the intended result; unsatisfactory: *a thin excuse | It was quite an entertaining speech, but rather thin in terms of content.* | *His jokes are beginning to* **wear thin** (=become less funny) *because he's told them so often.* **8 have a thin time** *BrE infml* to have an unpleasant, uncomfortable, or esp. unsuccessful time: *He's been having rather a thin time (of it) since his wife left him.* **9 thin end of the wedge** *esp. BrE* something which seems unimportant but will open the way for more serious things of a similar kind: *You're letting one or two employees take days off here and there — this is just the thin end of the wedge.* **10 thin on the ground** *infml, esp. BrE* not plentiful: *Taxis seem very thin on the ground tonight — we'll have to walk.* **11 thin on top** *infml euph* becoming BALD (=hairless) —**~ly** *adv*: *Spread the butter thinly.* | *a thinly-veiled|thinly-disguised threat* (=clearly a threat, but not expressed in threatening language) —**~ness** *n* [U]

▷USAGE 1 **Thin** is a general word to describe people who have little or no fat on their bodies. If someone is **thin** in a pleasant way, we say they are **slim** or (less common) **slender**: *I wish I were as* **slim|slender** *as you.* We could also say **lean** (=thin in a strong and healthy way): *a* **lean,** *muscular body.* If they are too thin they are **skinny** (*infml*), **underweight,** or (worst of all) **emaciated**: *He looks very* **thin|skinny|underweight** *after his illness.* | *The prisoners were* **emaciated.** 2 **Thin** can be used for things: *a* **thin** *pole,* but not usually for flat surfaces (especially surfaces where a person might go) or for openings. Instead we say **narrow**: *a* **narrow** *road | a* **narrow** *bed | a* **narrow** *gap.* 3 **Fine** is used to describe things that are **thin** when you are giving the idea of careful, sensitive work: *She drew with a* **fine** *pen.* | **fine** *silk thread* —see also FAT (USAGE).◁

thin[2] *adv* so as to be thin; thinly: *Don't cut the bread so thin.*

thin[3] *v* **-nn- 1** [I;T (OUT)] to make or become thinner, fewer, or less closely packed: *We should wait until the mist thins before we start our journey.* | *Thin the paint by adding turpentine.* | *The crowd began to thin out.* | *His hair is thinning.* **2** [T (OUT)] to pull up the weaker ones from (a mass of young plants) so that the stronger ones have room to grow freely —see also THINNER

thin air /· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *infml* a state of not being seen or not existing: *I can't find that book anywhere — it's disappeared*

into thin air! | We can't just produce another £1000 out of thin air.

thine[1] /ðaɪn/ *pron old use, bibl, or poet* (*possessive form of* **thou**) yours: *"For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory ..."* (prayer)

thine[2] *determiner old use, bibl, or poet* (before a vowel or *h*) THY: *"Drink to me only with thine eyes."* (Ben Jonson)

thing /θɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a material object; an object that need not or cannot be named: *What's that thing you've got on your head? | What do you use this thing for? | "You can't leave that thing there," shouted the policeman. | I opened the door and the first thing I saw was a cloud of smoke.| Have you seen my pen? I can't find the thing|the wretched|stupid|damned thing* (=it) *anywhere.* (shows annoyance) | *My son likes making things out of wood.* **2** [C] a separate but non-physical object that can be thought about or talked about, such as a quality, idea, or statement: *What a nasty thing to say to your sister! | I just said the first thing that came into my head. | One of the things I like about her is that she's very honest. | He seems to be more interested in things of the mind than things of the body. | One thing is certain – I'm not lending him any money again. | She talked very fast and I couldn't understand a thing she said. | The job has got a lot of things going for it.* (=several advantages) | *There's* **no such thing as** *a cure for all ills.* (=such a thing does not exist) **3** [C] that which has been or will be done; an action, activity, or event: *What's the next thing we have to do? | I hope I'm doing the right thing in accepting this job. | We're expecting great things from our new manager. | The first thing is for you to talk to your teacher.* (=that is what you should do first) | *If you do that she might resign, which is the last thing we want.* (=we do not want this to happen at all) | *A funny thing happened at work today. | You couldn't help getting ill – it's* **just one of those things.** (=an event that cannot be avoided) **4** [C] a subject; matter: *There's one more thing I wanted to say. | There are one or two things I'd like to discuss with you. | Let's just forget the whole thing.* **5** [C] a person or animal: *He's been very ill, poor thing. | There wasn't a living thing in the woods.* **6** [C] a garment; piece of clothing: *I haven't got a thing to wear! | Did you bring your swimming things?* **7** [*the*] that which is necessary or desirable: *I think I've got* **just the thing** *you need. | Cold beer's just the thing on a hot day!* **8** [*the* **(in)**] the fashion or custom: *She was wearing the latest thing in shoes. | It's not* **the (done) thing** *to eat off your knife.* **9** [S] *sl* an activity very satisfying to one personally: *Everyone should be free to* **do their (own) thing.** **10 a thing of the past** something which no longer exists: *Good manners seem to have become a thing of the past.* **11 for 'one thing** (used for introducing a reason): *For one thing we can't afford it, and for another it's ugly.* **12 have a thing about** *infml* to have unusually strong feelings, usu. of like or dislike, about: *He's got a thing about planes – he just won't go on them.* **13 make a thing of** *infml* to give too much importance to: *I disagree with you, but don't let's make a thing of it!* **14 taking one thing with another** considering everything that needs to be considered –see also THINGS, CLOSE THING, NEAR THING, SURE THING, **first thing** (FIRST[1]) **good thing** (GOOD[2])

▷ USAGE **The thing is** can be used in informal conversation when you give a reason for something you have said, or introduce something which you think is the main point: *I've got a bit of a problem.* **The thing is,** *all the banks are closed. So could you lend me some money until tomorrow? | "Why won't you marry me, Mary?" "I'm sorry, John.* **The thing is,** *I don't want to marry anyone."*◁

thing·a·ma·jig , thingumajig, thingummyjig /'θɪŋəmˌdʒɪg/ also **thing·a·ma·bob** /'θɪŋəmˌbɒb‖-bɑːb/, **thing·um·my** /'θɪŋəmi/, **thing·ie** /'θɪŋi/– *n infml* a person or thing, esp. one whose name one has forgotten or does not know: *Have you got the thingamajig for opening bottles?*

things /θɪŋz/ *n* [P] **1** personal possessions; belongings: *Pack your things. We're going to leave.* **2** the general state of affairs at a particular time; situation: *The car ran out of petrol, and to make things worse I didn't have any money on me. | The way things stand at the moment, we can't possibly afford a holiday. | Cheer up – things aren't as bad as they seem.* **3** the dishes, cups, knives, etc., used for the stated meal: *We must clear away the breakfast things.* **4 all things to all men** pleasing to everyone or useful for everything: *You should stop trying to be all things to all men.* **5 of 'all things** (used for expressing surprise): *She ordered frogs' legs, of all things!* –see also **hear things** (HEAR), **see things** (SEE[1])

think[1] /θɪŋk/ *v* **thought** /θɔːt/ **1** [I **(about)**;T] to use the power of reason; make judgments or careful considerations; use the mind to form ideas and opinions: *She thought long and hard before coming to a decision. | My headache was so bad I could hardly think straight. | You look very thoughtful; what are you thinking about? | thinking great thoughts | teaching children to* **think for themselves** (=to form their own opinions) | *I thought to myself* (=I had the thought), *"He's behaving very oddly."* –see also THINK **about** **2** [T] to believe; consider; have an opinion: [+(*that*)] *The police think that the bomb was planted by terrorists. | I think she's wrong, don't you? | "Do you think it will rain?" "Yes, I think so." | Who do you think murdered the old lady?* (=in your opinion, who murdered her?) | *I don't think she'll come.* (=I think she will not come.) | *I don't think she'll come; I know she'll come.* (=Not only do I think she'll come, but I know she'll come.) | *From the way he behaves, you'd think he owned the company.* (=he behaves in a way that suggests this, though it is not true) [+*obj*+*n*/*adj*] (*fml*) *He thinks himself a great poet. | I thought her rather clever.* [+*obj*+*to-v*;*pass.*] *The government is thought to be planning an election in June.* (=this is what most people think) –see also THINK **of** (2) **3** [T+*wh-*;~~*obj*~~] (used after **cannot** and **could not**) to imagine; understand: *I can't think why you did it. | He's a most unpleasant man – I can't think why she married him.* **4** [T+*wh-*;~~*obj*~~] to reason about; bring to mind; remember: *Think how big and varied the world is.| Try and think where you last saw him.* **5** [T+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] to have as a half-formed intention or plan: *I think I'm going to make some tea – would you like a cup? | We thought we'd go swimming tomorrow. | "You'll go swimming tomorrow, will you?" "Yes, I thought so."* (=that is my intention) [+*to-v*] (*old use*) *They thought to deceive me, but I was too clever for them.* –see also THINK **of** (1) **6** [T+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] to expect: *She said she'd kill him, but I never thought she'd actually do it. | We didn't think we'd be this late.* | **Who would have thought** *that she'd end up as prime minister?* (shows surprise) | *"He's in trouble with the police again." "I* **thought as much."** (=That's just what I expected.) **7** [T+*to-v*;~~*obj*~~;*usu. in negatives*] to be sensitive or thoughtful enough (to do something): *I didn't think to ask her if she had passed her exam.* **8** [T+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] (used in requests): *Do you think you could help me with this box?* **9 think aloud** to speak one's thoughts as they come **10 think big** *infml* to plan to do things on a large scale rather than carefully or in a limited way **11 think on one's feet** to think and make decisions quickly **12 think twice** to think very carefully about something: *I should think twice before accepting that offer; it sounds rather suspicious.* **13 I think, therefore I am** *quote* a phrase used by the French PHILOSOPHER René Descartes –see also **see/think fit to** (FIT[2]) – **~er** *n* : *Bertrand Russell, one of the great thinkers of our age*

▷ USAGE 1 To make this word stronger, say *I* **thought** *hard. | I* **thought** *deeply.* 2 In negative sentences, the negative normally goes with **think,** not with the next verb: *I don't* **think** *she'll come. | They didn't* **think** *he was good enough.*◁

think about sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to consider seriously before making a decision: *"Dad, will you buy me a new bike?" "I don't know; I'll have to think about it."* **2** to THINK **of** (1,2)

think of sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to have formed a possible but not firmly settled plan for: *I'd thought of blue for this room.* [+*v-ing*] *We're thinking of going to France for our holidays, but we haven't decided for certain yet.* –see also THINK[1] (5) **2** to have as an opinion about: *What do you think of|about the government's latest offer to the teachers?* –see also THINK[1] (2) **3** to take into account; consider: *Do be careful – think of the risks you're taking.| It's a nice idea, but think of the cost!* **4** (used after **cannot** and **could not** and in the infinitive after **try, want,** etc.) to remember: *I can't think of his name. | I tried to think of her phone number, but I just couldn't remember it.* **5 not think much of** to have a low opinion of: *I don't think much of these so-called improvements to the town centre.* **6 not think of** *infml* not consider or not be able

to: *I wouldn't think of letting you walk home on a night like this.* **7 think better of something** to change one's opinion about something; decide wisely against something: *I was going to ask him to help, but thought better of (doing) it.* **8 think highly/well/little/poorly/etc. of** to have a good/bad/etc. opinion of (someone or something): *We all think very highly of her.* —see also WELL-THOUGHT-OF **9 think nothing of** to regard as usual or easy: *He thinks nothing of walking four miles to work and back every day.* **10 think nothing 'of it** (a reply to thanks or an APOLOGY) I'm very glad to have helped you **11 think the world of** to care about very much: *He may get angry sometimes, but really he thinks the world of you.*

think sthg. ↔ **out/through** *phr v* [T] to consider carefully and in detail, esp. so that all the possible results of an action are understood in advance; reach a decision about (something) after much careful thought: *I don't think the government has really thought out/thought through all the consequences of this decision.* —see also THOUGHT-OUT

think sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] to consider seriously: *Your offer is very attractive, but I need to think it over before I can let you know my decision.*

think sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to invent (esp. an idea): *The prisoners tried to think up a plan for escape.*

think[2] *n* [S (**about**)] *infml* an act of thinking, esp. about a difficulty or question: *I'll have to* **have a think** *about this before I give you an answer.* | *If you think I'm going to lend you a pound you've* **got another think coming**. (=you'll have to think of someone else to ask, because I certainly won't lend you a pound)

Think·er /'θɪŋkəʳ/, **The** a SCULPTURE by Rodin of a man deep in thought —see picture at RODIN

think·ing[1] /'θɪŋkɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the act of using one's mind to produce thoughts and ideas: *I've been doing some thinking and I've decided to change my job.* **2** a way of thinking about something; opinion; judgment: *What's the Administration's thinking on this matter?* | **To my way of thinking** (=in my opinion), *they are making a serious mistake.* **3 put on one's 'thinking cap** *infml* to think seriously about something —see also WISHFUL THINKING

thinking[2] *adj* [A] *apprec* thoughtful; able to think, esp. clearly and seriously: *All thinking people agree that something must be done about world hunger.* | *plans to develop a thinking computer*

think tank /'· ·/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a committee of people experienced in a particular subject, established by an organization, government, etc., to develop ideas and advise on matters related to that subject

thin·ner /'θɪnəʳ/ *n* [U] a liquid, such as TURPENTINE, added to paint to make it spread more easily

thin-skinned /ˌ· '·◂/ *adj sometimes derog* sensitive; (too) easily offended; TOUCHY

third /θɜːd‖θɜːrd/ *determiner, adv, n, pron* **1** 3rd —see TABLE 1 **2** [C (**in**)] the third and usu. lowest class of British university degree: *He got a third in Chemistry.* —see DEGREE (CULTURAL NOTE)

third base /ˌ· '·/ *n* (in BASEBALL) the third of the four BASES which a player must touch before gaining a point (RUN)

third class /ˌ· '·◂/ *n* [C] *fml for* THIRD (2)

third de·gree /ˌ· ·'·◂/ *n* [*the*+S] *infml* hard questioning and/or rough treatment of a person in order to obtain information or a statement of guilt: *The police gave the suspect the third degree.*

third-degree /'· ··/ *adj* [A] (of a burn) of the highest level of seriousness

Third Man /ˌ· '·/, **The** a NOVEL about spies (SPY) by Graham Greene set in Vienna at the end of the Second World War, later made into a very successful film with Orson Welles

third par·ty /ˌ· '··◂/ *n tech or law* **1** a person other than the two main people concerned in an agreement, contract, law case, etc. **2** a person not named in an insurance agreement, but who will be protected by the insurance if an accident happens

third per·son /ˌ· '··◂/ *n* [*the*+S] **1** a form of a verb or PRONOUN that is used for showing the person or thing that is being spoken about: *"He", "she", "it", and "they" are third person pronouns.* | *"They are" is the third person plural of "to be".* **2** a way of telling a story in which the teller uses the third person: *The story was written in the third person; it began "He was born in . . .".* —compare FIRST PERSON, SECOND PERSON

third-rate /ˌ· '·◂/ *adj* of very poor quality; INFERIOR

Third Read·ing /ˌθɜːd 'riːdɪŋ‖ˌθɜːrd-/ *n* the third and final reading out of a suggested new law in parliament – see BILL[1] (2) (CULTURAL NOTE)

Third Reich /ˌ· '·/ [*the*] the German DICTATORSHIP between 1933 and 1945, including Germany and all the countries that Hitler intended it should take over

Third World /ˌ· '·◂/ [*the*] the industrially less developed countries of the world considered as a group

thirst[1] /θɜːst‖θɜːrst/ *n* **1** [S;U] a sensation of dryness in the mouth caused by the need to drink; desire for drink: *After running five miles we had quite a thirst.* | *He* **quenched** (=satisfied) **his thirst** *with a large glass of beer.* | *A long, thirst-quenching drink.* **2** [U] lack of drink, esp. for a long period: *The soldiers died of thirst in the desert.* **3** [(*the*) S+**for**] a strong desire; CRAVING: *the thirst for excitement/knowledge*

thirst[2]

thirst for/after sthg. *phr v* [T] *lit* to have a strong desire for: *Our people thirst for independence.*

thirst·y /'θɜːsti‖'θɜːr-/ *adj* **1** feeling thirst: *Salty food makes you thirsty.* | (fig.) *The fields are thirsty for rain.* **2** [A] causing thirst: *Chopping logs is* **thirsty work.** **3** [F+**for**] having a strong desire for: *She was thirsty for power.* —**-ily** *adv*

thir·teen /ˌθɜː'tiːn◂‖ˌθɜːr-/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 13. This number is thought to be unlucky by many people. —see TABLE 1 —**-teenth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

thir·ties /'θɜːtiz‖'θɜːr-/ *n* [P] **1** [*the*] also **'30s**– the 1930s (=the years from 1930 to 1939): *The film is set in the thirties during the Depression.* **2 in his/her/their thirties** aged from 30 to 39: *Most of my colleagues are in their thirties.* **3** [*the*] the numbers from 30 to 39

thir·ty /'θɜːti‖'θɜːrti/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 30. For many young people, thirty is the age at which they think one begins to grow old. —see TABLE 1 —see also **thirty pieces of silver** (SILVER) —**-tieth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

Thirty-nine Ar·ti·cles /ˌ·· · '···/ [*the* + P] a set of basic teachings and beliefs of the Church of England, written in 1571, which the Church still asks its ministers to agree to in principle before appointment

thirty some·thing /'·· ˌ··/ *n* **1** the age range of 30–39 **2** a person of this age, esp. one who is seen as being successful in their profession, having a young family, middle-class, well-educated, and perhaps a YUPPIE: *a party for thirty somethings*

Thirty Years' War /ˌ·· · '·/ [*the*] a European war fought mainly in Germany between 1618 and 1648. It led to the Habsburgs and the Holy Roman Empire losing power in Europe.

this[1] /ðɪs/ *determiner* **these** /ðiːz/ being the person, thing, idea, etc., which is understood or (about to be) mentioned: *I saw Mrs Jones this morning.* (=before midday today) | *Wait until you've heard this story!* | *These latest revelations will severely damage the President's reputation.* | *Who's this Mr Black we keep hearing about?* | *There will be another meeting later this week.* | *Come here* **this minute!** (=at once) | *They should have arrived by this time.* (=by now) | *If we keep losing money at this rate we may have to close the factory.* **2** being the one of two or more people or things that is nearer in time, place, thought, etc.: *You look in this box (here) and I'll look in that one (over there).* | *I'm surprised you like that picture; I prefer this one.* | *Is the meeting this Friday or next Friday?* **3** *infml* a certain: *This man came up to me in the street and started making rude suggestions ...* | *There were these two Irishmen called Pat and Mike ...*

this[2] *pron* **these** **1** the thing, idea, action, etc., which is understood or (about to be) mentioned: *Who told you this?* | *Wait until you've heard this!* | *What's this?* | *This is what you must do.* | *Do it like this.* (=in the way shown) | *This has been the best year in the company's history.* | *We're getting some new machines next month, and this* (=this fact) *will help us to increase production.* **2** (used with **be**) the thing or person that is near or nearer in place, time, thought, etc.: *This is your book, isn't it?* | *"This is my sister." "How do you do?"* | *This is more comfortable than that one over there.* | (on the telephone)

Hullo! This is Jane Robinson speaking ... **3** this time or place; now or here: *I thought he'd have got back before this.* **4 this, that, and the other** also **this and that**– *infml* various things; all sorts of things: *We were sitting there talking about this, that, and the other.* **5 What's all 'this?** What is the trouble, matter, etc., here?

this[3] *adv infml* to this degree: *I've never been out this late before.* | *Cut off about this much thread.*

This·be /'θɪzbi/ the female lover of Pyramus –see PYRAMUS AND THISBE

This is Your Life /ˌ· · · '·/ a British and American television programme in which a famous person's life story is told. All their friends and relations are brought to meet them, and the whole thing is a complete surprise to the person concerned.

this·tle /'θɪsəl/ *n* a wild plant with prickly leaves and yellow, white, or esp. purple flowers. The thistle is the national sign of Scotland.

thist!e



this·tle·down /'θɪsəldaʊn/ *n* [U] the soft feathery substance fastened to the seeds of the thistle, by means of which they float through the air

thith·er /'ðɪðəʳ‖'θɪðər/ *adv old use* to that place; in that direction –see also **hither and thither** (HITHER)

Thom·as /'tɒməs‖'tɑ:-/, **Clar·ence** /'klærəns/ (1948–) a judge on the US Supreme Court since 1991. When Thomas was being questioned by members of Congress for his position on the Supreme Court, a woman who had once worked with him said that he made sexual advances towards her. This case was widely reported in the news. Congress did, however, approve Thomas for this position.

Thomas, Dy·lan /'dɪlən/ (1914–53) a Welsh poet best known for his play for radio, *Under Milk Wood*

Thomas, I·si·ah /aɪ'zaɪə/ (1961–) an American BASKETBALL player

Thomas, Ron·ald Stu·art /'rɒnəld 'stju:ət‖'rɑ:nəld 'stu:ərt/ (1913–) a Welsh poet who wrote about old Welsh values in poems such as *Song at the Year's Turning*

Thomas Cook /ˌ·· '·/ a well-known TRAVEL AGENCY and holiday company in Britain –see also Thomas COOK

Thomas the Tank En·gine /ˌ·· · '· ˌ··/ (a set of books, television programmes and films about) a little steam railway engine and his friends, very popular with British children in the 1950s, and again in the 80s and 90s

Thomp·son /'tɒmpsən‖'tɑ:-/, **Da·ley** /'deɪli/ (1958–) an English ATHLETE who won GOLD MEDALS in the DECATHLON at the 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games

Thom·son Di·rec·to·ry /'tɒmsən daɪˌrektəri, dɨ-‖'tɑ:m-/ [*the*] a book in which local businesses advertise, giving their addresses and telephone numbers, and which is sent free of charge to every private house and business in Britain –compare YELLOW PAGES

thong /θɒŋ‖θɔ:ŋ/ *n* a narrow length of leather used as a fastening, whip, etc.

thongs /θɒŋz‖θɔ:ŋz/ *n* [P] *AmE & AustrE* a type of open shoe (SANDAL) which is held on by the toes and loose at the back –see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at SHOE

Thor /θɔ:ʳ/ in NORSE MYTHOLOGY, the god of THUNDER usu. pictured with a HAMMER

tho·rax /'θɔ:ræks/ *n* **-races** /rəsi:z/ *or* **-raxes** *tech* **1** the part of the human body between the neck and ABDOMEN **2** a part like this in other animals **3** the part of an insect's body that carries the legs and wings –see picture at INSECT

Tho·reau /'θɔ:rəʊ‖θə'rəʊ/, **Henry David** (1817–62) an American writer best known for *Walden* and *Civil Disobedience*, a short piece of writing on refusing to obey unfair laws which influenced Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. –see also WALDEN POND

thorn /θɔ:n‖θɔ:rn/ *n* **1** [C] a small sharp pointed growth on the stem of a plant: *the thorns on a rose bush* **2** [C;U] (*usu. in comb.*) a bush, tree, or other plant having such growths –see also HAWTHORN **3 a thorn in one's flesh/side** a continual cause of annoyance or problems –see also CROWN OF THORNS

thorn·y /'θɔ:ni‖'θɔ:rni/ *adj* **1** prickly; having thorns **2** difficult to deal with; causing worry or trouble: *a thorny problem* –**iness** *n* [U]

thor·ough /'θʌrə‖'θʌrəʊ, 'θʌrə/ *adj* **1** complete in every way: *a thorough search* | *They have promised a thorough inquiry into the plane crash.* **2** [A] being fully or completely (the stated thing): *This has been a thorough waste of time.* **3** (of a person) careful with regard to detail; METICULOUS: *She's very thorough.* –~**ly** *adv*: *After a hard day's work I feel thoroughly tired.* | *We thoroughly enjoyed your party.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

thor·ough·bred /'θʌrəbred‖'θʌrəʊ-, 'θʌrə-/ *n, adj* (an animal, esp. a horse) descended from parents of one very good breed; the type of horse used in racing –compare PUREBLOODED, PUREBRED

thor·ough·fare /'θʌrəfeəʳ‖'θʌrəʊ-, 'θʌrə-/ *n fml* **1** a road for public traffic, esp. a busy main road: *Nevskii Prospekt is Leningrad's busiest thoroughfare.* **2 No thoroughfare** (written on signs) not open to the public; no way through; no entrance

thor·ough·go·ing /ˌθʌrə'gəʊɪŋ◂/ *adj* **1** very thorough; complete in every way: *a thoroughgoing search* **2** [A] complete; UTTER: *a thoroughgoing fool*

Thorpe /θɔ:p‖θɔ:rp/, **Jer·e·my** /'dʒerəmi/ (1929–) a British politician who was leader of the Liberal Party from 1967–76. He gave up the leadership of the party in 1976, when it was suggested that he had had a HOMOSEXUAL relationship several years earlier.

Thorpe, Jim /dʒɪm/ (1888–1953) an American ATHLETE who won GOLD MEDALS in the Olympics in 1912 and later played American FOOTBALL. Thorpe's Olympic medals were taken away from him when it was learned that he had once received money for playing BASEBALL, but many years after his death it was decided that he had won the medals fairly and they were returned to his family.

those /ðəʊz/ *pl. of* THAT[1,2]: *Will those* (=the people) *who want to join the club please sign here?* –see ONE[2] (USAGE)

thou /ðaʊ/ *pron old use or bibl* **1** (used as the subject of a sentence with special old forms of verbs such as **art, canst, didst,** etc.) you: *"Thou hast spoken wisely."* (The Bible) –see also HOLIER-THAN-THOU **2 thou shalt not** the first words of most of the Ten Commandments in the Bible, e.g. "Thou shalt not steal", now sometimes used humorously when giving a rule or warming: *"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's automobile!" I warned him.* | *Thou shalt not borrow my toothbrush.*

though[1] /ðəʊ/ *conj* **1** in spite of the fact that; even if: *Though/Even though it's hard work, I enjoy it.* | *The offenders were dealt with firmly though fairly.* | *Hard-working though he was, there was never enough money to pay the bills.* | *a competent, though hardly exciting, piece of work* **2 as though** as if: *He sounds as though he's got a sore throat.* –see also ALTHOUGH

though[2] *adv* (not used at the beginning of a CLAUSE) in spite of the fact; NEVERTHELESS: *It's hard work; I enjoy it though.* | *He's a bad manager. There's no reason, though, to dismiss him.*

thought[1] /θɔ:t/ *past tense & participle of* THINK

thought[2] *n* **1** [U] the action of thinking; REFLECTION: *He sat there, deep in thought.* **2** [U] serious consideration: *Give her offer plenty of thought before you accept it.* **3** [C (**about, on, of**)] something that is thought; a product of thinking; idea, opinion, etc.: *Let me have your thoughts on the subject.* | *With his piercing gaze I almost imagined he could read my thoughts.* | *"Why don't we go by train?" "Yes, that's a thought."* (=a good idea) | *I've just had a thought – what will happen if she forgets to come?* | *"Do you think she's going to leave?" "The thought had crossed my mind."* (=I had already considered this possibility.) **4** [U (**of**) *usu. in questions and negatives*] intention: *I had no thought of annoying you.* | *You must give up all thought of John.* (=must not think about him or hope to be with him) **5** [U] the particular way of thinking of a social group, person, period, country, etc.: *ancient Greek thought* **6** [C;U (**for**)] (an example of) attention or consideration: *With no thought for her own safety she jumped into the river to save the drowning child.* | *"I'm sorry to disturb you." "That's all right; don't give it a thought."* –see also SCHOOL OF THOUGHT, SECOND THOUGHT

thought·ful /ˈθɔːtfəl/ *adj* **1** (showing that one is) thinking deeply; PENSIVE: *The girl looked thoughtful for a moment and then answered.* | *a thoughtful frown* | *You look thoughtful; is anything wrong?* **2** *apprec* paying attention to the wishes, feelings, needs, etc., of other people; CONSIDERATE: *It was very thoughtful of you to stop and give me a lift.* | *a thoughtful person* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

thought·less /ˈθɔːtləs/ *adj* not thinking; showing a selfish or careless lack of thought: *It was thoughtless of you to forget your sister's birthday.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

thought-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* produced or developed after consideration: *a well|badly thought-out scheme* —see also THINK **out**

Thought Po·lice /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ [*the*] a type of police force, in George Orwell's NOVEL *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, who try to control and restrict people's thoughts. The expression is sometimes used to describe people who try to tell other people what opinions they should have and what words they should use: *The left-wing feminist thought police tell us that we can no longer use the word "mankind".* —see also NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

Thoughts of Chair·man Mao /ˌ· · ˌ·· ˈ·/, **The** a book containing the teachings of Mao Zedong, first produced in China in 1964, and also known as the **little red book**

thou·sand /ˈθaʊzənd/ *determiner, n, pron* **thousand** *or* **thousands** (the number) 1000: *There were thousands* (=a very large number) *of people there.* —see TABLE 1

Thousand and One Nights /ˌ·· · ˌ· ˈ·/, **The** see ARABIAN NIGHTS

thou·sandth /ˈθaʊzənθ/ *determiner, n, pron, adv* 1000th —see TABLE 1

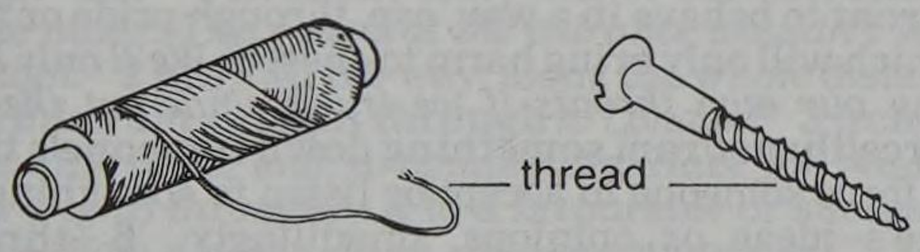
thral·dom *BrE* ‖ **thralldom** *AmE* /ˈθrɔːldəm/ *n* [U] *lit* slavery

thrall /θrɔːl/ *n* [(**to**)] *lit* **1** [C] a slave; SERF **2** [U] slavery: (fig.) *Her beauty held him* **in thrall.**

thrash /θræʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to hit hard (as if) with a whip or stick, as a punishment **2** [T] *infml* to defeat thoroughly, esp. in a game **3** [I+*adv|prep*, esp. ABOUT] to move wildly or violently about: *The fishes thrashed about in the net.*

thrash sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to talk about thoroughly in order to find an answer: *We thrashed out our differences round the conference table.* **2** to produce by much talk and consideration: *After a whole night of argument we thrashed out a plan|an agreement.*

thread



thread[1] /θred/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a line of) very thin cord made by spinning cotton, wool, silk, etc., used in sewing or weaving: *(a piece of) cotton|nylon thread* **2** [C (**of**)] something with the fineness or thinness of this: *a thread of light* **3** [C (**of**)] **a** a line of reasoning connecting the parts of an argument or story: *I'm afraid I've lost the thread of your argument.* **b** a repeated pattern or idea: *There is a consistent thread running through all these policies.* **4** [C] a raised line that winds round the outside of a screw or the inside of a NUT (2), BOLT[1] (1), etc.: *The thread's gone.* (=broken)—see also **hang by a thread** (HANG[1]) —see picture at SCREW

thread[2] *v* [T] **1** to pass a thread through: *to thread a needle* (=put one end of a thread through the EYE (=the hole) of a needle) | *a scarf threaded with gold* **2** [(**onto**)] to put (a film or TAPE[1] (2)) in place on an apparatus **3** [(TOGETHER)] to connect by running a thread through: *The little girl threaded the shells together and wore them round her neck.* **4** to cut a THREAD[1] (4) on (a screw, NUT (2), BOLT[1] (1), etc.) **5 thread one's way through** to make one's way carefully through (streets, crowds, forests, etc.)

thread·bare /ˈθredbeəʳ/ *adj* **1** (of material, clothes, etc.) very thin because of a lot of use; very worn **2** having been so much used as to be no longer interesting or effective: *threadbare excuses*

Threadneedle Street see OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET

threat /θret/ *n* **1** [C;U] an expression of an intention to hurt, punish, cause pain, etc., esp. if one's instructions or demands are not obeyed: *Those children do not take their father's threats very seriously.* | *They used the threat of strike action to enforce their demands.* | *They said they would invade us, but it's just an* **empty threat** *– they have no army.* [+*to-v*] *They carried out their threat to kill her.* | *I obeyed his orders, but only* **under threat of** *punishment.* **2** [C (**to**) *usu. sing.*] a person, thing, or idea regarded as a possible danger: *While the killer goes free he is a threat to everyone in the town.* | *The existence of these weapons poses a grave threat to the future of the world.* | *Some people see computers as a threat to their jobs.* **3** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] a sign, warning, or possibility of coming danger: *The clouds brought a threat of rain.* | *The threat of bankruptcy hung over the company.*

threat·en /ˈθretn/ *v* **1** [T (**with**)] **a** to express a threat against (someone): *The strikers were threatened with dismissal if they did not return to work.* | *a threatening letter* **b** to express (a threat) against someone: *He threatened a terrible vengeance.* [+*to-v*] *The terrorists threatened to blow up the plane if their demands were not met.* **2** [T] to give warning of (something bad): *The black clouds threatened rain.* | *a threatening sky* **3** [I] (of something bad) to seem likely to happen: *While danger threatens we must all be on our guard.* **4** [T] to be a danger or threat to; seem likely (to harm, spoil, ruin, etc.): *Noisy traffic threatens the peace of the village.* | *He's very unhappy about her promotion; he seems to feel that his own job is threatened.* (=that he may lose it) [+*to-v*] *The incident threatens to ruin his chances in the election.* —~**ingly** *adv*

three /θriː/ *determiner, n, pron* **1** (the number) 3 —see also **two's company, three's a crowd** (TWO); see TABLE 1 —see also PACKET OF THREE **2 (yes, sir, yes sir) three bags full** a phrase from the NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children) *Baa, baa, black sheep.* The phrase is often used humorously when saying that someone is giving you a lot of orders and expects you to obey them all without asking any questions

Three Blind Mice /ˌ· · ˈ·/ a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children), about three blind mice who have their tails cut off by a farmer's wife: *Three blind mice! See how they run!*

three-cor·nered /ˌ· ˈ·· ·◂/ *adj* **1** having three corners **2** having three competitors, parties, etc.: *The election was* **a three-cornered fight.**

three-D , 3-D /ˌθriː ˈdiː◂/ *n* [U] a THREE-DIMENSIONAL (1) form or appearance: *They watched a horror film in 3D.*

three-day e·vent /ˌ· · ·ˈ·/ *n esp. BrE* a horse-riding competition which lasts three days and includes DRESSAGE, CROSS-COUNTRY riding, and SHOW JUMPING

three-day week /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* a working week of three days instead of the usual five, caused by lack of work or other bad economic conditions

three-di·men·sion·al /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** having or seeming to have length, depth, and height **2** described or shown in great depth or detail, so as to seem alive; LIFELIKE: *The characters in his novels are always three-dimensional.*

three-half·pence /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **penny-halfpenny**— *n* [U] *BrE* 1½d; (the value of) one and a half old pennies (PENNY)

Three Kings /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the* + P] see MAGI

three-leg·ged race /ˌ· ˈ·· ·/ *n* a race run by competitors in pairs, each pair having their inside legs tied together. These races are mainly run at young school children's sports days.

three-line whip /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) an order given by party leaders to Members of Parliament belonging to their party, telling them that they must vote in a particular way or be considered disloyal to their party

Three Lit·tle Pigs /ˌ· ·· ˈ·/, **The** a children's story in which three little pigs build houses of different materials which a BIG BAD WOLF tries to blow down

3M /θriː ˈem/ Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing; an American company that makes many different industrial products and goods used in the home

Three Men in a Boat /· ˌ· · · ˈ·/ a humorous book written in 1889 by Jerome K. Jerome, about three men and a dog who row up the Thames on holiday

Three Mile Is·land /ˌ· · ˈ··/ the place in Pennsylvannia in the US where, in 1979, a NUCLEAR power plant went wrong, causing fears of a terrible accident. This led to changes in the way some of these plants are made and stopped the building of others.

Three Mus·ket·eers /ˌ· ··ˈ·/ *tdmk* (in the US) a CANDY BAR (=bar-shaped sweet) that has chocolate on the outside and inside

Three Musketeers, The a NOVEL by Alexandre Dumas, set in 17th century France, about three sword fighters who guard Louis XIII, the king of France. They are remembered for saying "All for one, and one for all!", meaning that they would always support and protect one another.

three·pence /ˈθrepəns, ˈθrʌ-/ *n BrE* [U] 3d; (the value of) three old pennies (PENNY): *It cost threepence.*

three·pen·ny bit /ˌθrepəni ˈbɪt, ˌθrʌ-/ a small round silver coin or a small 12-sided copper coin formerly used in Britain with a value of three old pennies (PENNY)

Threepenny Op·e·ra /ˌ··· ˈ···/, **The** a retelling of *The Beggars Opera*, by Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill

three-piece /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] consisting of or made in three matching parts: *a three-piece suit* (=matching trousers, JACKET, and WAISTCOAT) | *a three-piece suite* (=two matching chairs and a SOFA)

three-ply /ˈ· ·/ *adj* (of wool, wood, etc.) having three LAYERS, STRANDS, etc. to make one stronger piece of material

three-point turn /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* an operation for turning a vehicle in the opposite direction in a small space by going forwards, then backwards, then forwards again. The ability to perform this is part of the British driving test and some US state driving tests.

3.2 beer /ˌθri: tu: ˈbɪəʳ/ *n* [U] beer which is 3.2 per cent alcohol; sold in some US states to people under the legal drinking age, and sometimes made available to soldiers

three-quar·ter /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] consisting of three fourths (¾) of the whole: *a three-quarter length coat*

three-ring cir·cus /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a CIRCUS which has three areas of entertainment going on at the same time **2** *AmE* a very busy, confusing place: *It was like a three-ring circus in there.*

three R's /ˌθri: ˈɑ:z‖-ˈɑ:rz/ [*the*+P] reading, writing, and ARITHMETIC (=working with numbers) considered as forming the base of children's education. The expression comes from the sound at the beginning of the words "reading", "writing", and "(a)rithmetic".

three·score /ˈθri:skɔ:ʳ/ *determiner, n, pron lit* or *poet* **1** 60 **2 threescore years and ten** *phrase from the Bible* 70 years, viewed as the average length of time a person is likely to live

three·some /ˈθri:səm/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a group of three people or things, often as sexual partners

three-star /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] of a good quality or standard (on a scale which has one-star as the lowest quality and five-star as the highest): *a three-star hotel*

Three Stoog·es /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] three American COMEDIANS, named Curly, Larry, and Moe, who appeared in a television show in the 1950s. The Three Stooges did silly things, often blamed each other for mistakes, and often hit each other with different objects, such as FRYING PANS.

three-wheel·er /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *n* a car with three wheels

Three Wise Men /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the* + P] see MAGI

Three Wise Mon·keys /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*+P] a representation of three MONKEYS sitting in a row, one with its hands covering its ears, another with its hands covering its eyes and the third with its hands covering its mouth. They are supposed to represent "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil".

thren·o·dy /ˈθrenədi/ *n lit* a funeral song for the dead

thresh /θreʃ/ *v* [I;T] to separate the grain from (corn, wheat, or other grain-bearing plants) by beating it with a special tool or with a **threshing machine** —~**er** *n*

thresh·old /ˈθreʃhəʊld, -ʃəʊld/ *n* **1** (a piece of wood or stone fixed beneath) a doorway forming an entrance to a building. It is an old custom for a newly married woman to be carried across the threshold of her new house by her husband. **2** [*usu. sing.*] the place or point of beginning, esp. of an important event or new development. *Scientists are now* **on the threshold of** *a better understanding of how the human brain works.* | *Its opponents say the new missile will lower the* **nuclear threshold.** (=the point at which NUCLEAR weapons begin to be used in a war) **3** *esp. tech* the lowest level at which something begins to operate, happen, produce an effect, etc.: *She has a very low threshold of pain|a low pain threshold.* (=She feels pain easily.) | *a 15% increase in tax thresholds*

threw /θru:/ *past tense of* THROW

thrice /θraɪs/ *adv old use* three times

thrift /θrɪft/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* wise and careful use of money and goods; avoidance of waste **2** [C] also **thrift in·sti·tu·tion** /ˈ· ··ˌ··/ — *AmE for* SAVINGS BANK or SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

thrift·shop /ˈθrɪftʃɒp‖-ʃɑ:p/ *n AmE* a shop which sells used goods, such as clothing or things to be used in the house, often to raise money for CHARITY

thrift·y /ˈθrɪfti/ *adj* using money and goods carefully and wisely; showing or practising thrift: *a thrifty housewife|meal* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U] —see also SPENDTHRIFT

thrill[1] /θrɪl/ *n* (an event or situation that produces) a sudden very strong feeling of excitement, joy, or sometimes fear, that seems to flow round the body like a wave: *Meeting the famous footballer was a great thrill for the children.* | *I felt a thrill of terror as the door began to creak open.*

thrill[2] *v* [I (**at, to**);T] to (cause to) feel a thrill or thrills: *We thrilled to* (=when we heard) *his tales of South Sea adventure.* | *What a thrilling game; the winner was in doubt until the last minute.* | (fig.) *We were thrilled* (=very pleased) *to hear about your new job.* —~**ingly** *adv*

thrill·er /ˈθrɪləʳ/ *n* a book, play, or film that tells a very exciting story, esp. of crime and violence

thrive /θraɪv/ *v* **thrived** *or* **throve** /θrəʊv/, **thrived** [I] to develop well and be healthy, strong, or successful; FLOURISH: *Few plants or animals thrive in the desert.* | *the thriving computer industry* | *a thriving business* | *How are your children? Thriving, I hope!*

thrive on *phr v* [T] to enjoy and do well as a result of, perhaps unexpectedly: *Most people wouldn't like to have so much responsibility, but she seems to thrive on it.*

throat /θrəʊt/ *n* **1** the passage from the back of the mouth down inside the neck that divides into two passages, one taking air to the lungs, the other taking food to the stomach: *I've got a fish bone stuck in my throat.* | *She's off work because of a sore throat.* **2** the front of the neck: *The murderer cut the old man's throat.* —see picture at HEAD **3 at each other's throats** fighting, arguing, disagreeing, etc., bitterly and violently **4 cut one's own throat** to behave in a way, esp. through pride or anger, which will only bring harm to oneself: *We'll only be cutting our own throats if we try to undercut them.* **5 force/thrust/ram something down someone's throat** to force someone to accept or listen to something, esp. one's ideas or opinions, unwillingly **6 -throated** /θrəʊtɨd/ having a throat of the stated kind: *a red-throated bird* —see also CUTTHROAT, DEEP THROAT, **jump down someone's throat** (JUMP[1] (11)), **stick in one's throat** (STICK[2])

throat·y /ˈθrəʊti/ *adj infml* (of a person) having a low rough voice: *a throaty singer* | *You sound throaty today. Have you got a cold?* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

throb[1] /θrɒb‖θrɑ:b/ *v* **-bb-** [I] (of the heart, a machine, etc.) to beat heavily and regularly: *My pulse was throbbing with excitement.* | *Her leg was throbbing with pain.* | *throbbing drums*

throb[2] *n* a strong low continuous beat: *the throb of machinery* —see also HEARTTHROB

throes /θrəʊz/ *n* [P] **1** *esp. lit* violent sudden pains, esp. caused by dying (esp. in the phrase **death throes**) **2 in the throes of** struggling with (some difficulty): *a country in the throes of war* | *We're just in the throes of moving to a new house.*

throm·bo·sis /θrɒmˈbəʊsɨs‖θrɑ:m-/ *n* **-ses** /si:z/ [C;U] the medical condition of having a CLOT (=a thickened or solid mass of blood) in a blood tube or the heart —see also CORONARY[2]

throne /θrəʊn/ *n* **1** [C] the ceremonial chair of a king, queen, BISHOP, etc. **2** [*the*+S] the rank or office of a king or queen: *He was only 15 when he* **came to the throne/ascended the throne.** (=became king) —see also **power behind the throne** (POWER[1] (12)) **3** [*the*] *humor*

sl a TOILET (1): *Sorry, you can't see him just now – he's on the throne.*

throng[1] /θrɒŋ‖θrɔːŋ/ *n* [C (**of**)+*sing./pl. v*] a large crowd (of people or things): *Throngs of visitors crowded through the art gallery.*

throng[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] to go (as if) in a crowd, filling a place or building: *People thronged to see the new play.* | *Passengers thronged the station waiting for their trains.* | *streets thronged with Christmas shoppers*

throt·tle[1] /ˈθrɒtl‖ˈθrɑːtl/ *v* [T] to seize (someone) tightly by the throat to stop them breathing; STRANGLE: *She nearly throttled me when she tied my tie for me.* | (fig.) *These government restrictions are going to throttle our trade.*

throttle (sthg. ↔) **down** *phr v* [I;T] to reduce the flow of petrol, oil, etc., to (an engine) so as to reduce speed

throttle[2] *n* a VALVE (=a doorlike part) in a pipe that opens and closes to control the flow of liquid, gas, oil, etc., into an engine

through[1] /θruː/ *prep* **1** in at one side, end, or surface of (something) and out at the other: *The train went through a tunnel.* | *I threw it through the window.* | *Water flows through this pipe.* | *He pushed his way through the crowd to the door.* | *We couldn't see through the mist.* | *Is it quicker to drive round the town, or straight through the centre?* | (fig.) *He drove straight through* (=did not stop at) *a red traffic light.* **2** by means of: *I got this job through an employment agency.* | *It was through John that they found out.* **3** as a result of; because of: *The war was lost through bad organization.* | *How many working days were lost through sickness?* **4 a** from the beginning to the end of: *He is very weak and is not expected to live through the night.* | *I read right through|half way through the article but found it uninteresting.* | *The company is going through a difficult period.* **b** into and out of a process or operation that has a beginning and end: *The new law has completed its passage through Congress.* | *We went through the security check and boarded the plane.* **5** over the surface of or within the limits of: *We travelled through France and Belgium on our holidays.* **6** among or between the parts or single members of: *The monkeys swung through the trees.* | *I searched through my papers for the missing document.* **7** having finished, or so as to finish, successfully: *Did you get through your exams?* | *Her encouragement helped him through the crisis.* **8** *AmE* (esp. in expressions of time) up to and including: *Wednesday through Saturday* –see INCLUSIVE (USAGE) **9** against and in spite of (a noise): *The politician struggled to speak through the shouts of the crowd.* –see also THRU

through[2] *adv* **1** in at one side, end, or surface, and out at the other: *The guard at the entrance wouldn't let us through.* **2** [(**to**)] all the way; along the whole distance: *Does this train go* **right through** *to London?* **3** from the beginning to the end; to completion: *Have you read the letter (right) through?* **4** to a favourable or successful state: *"How did you do in your examinations?" "I* **got through** *with good marks."* **5** [(**to**)] *esp. BrE* (when telephoning) in a state of being connected to a person or place: *"Can you* **put** *me* **through** *to Mr Jones?" "You're through now."* **6** in every part; thoroughly: *I got* **wet through** *in the rain.* | *Have you really thought this matter through?* **7 through and through** completely; in every way

▷ USAGE When you telephone in Britain, the operator might ask *Are you* **through?** meaning "Are you connected to the other speaker?". In the US, this question could mean "Have you finished?".◁

through[3] *adj* **1** [A] **a** allowing a continuous journey: *Is this a through train or do I have to change?* | *The sign says "No Through Road", so we'll háve to go another way.* **b** coming from and going to somewhere outside a local area: *through traffic* **2** [F (**with**)] *infml* finished; done: *I'm not through just yet; I should be finished in an hour.* **3** [F (**with**)] *infml* having no further relationship: *Jane and I are through.* | *I'm through with men|alcohol|you.*

through·out[1] /θruːˈaʊt/ *prep* in, to, through, or during every part of: *It rained throughout the night.* | *The disease spread throughout the country.*

throughout[2] *adv* (usu. at the end of a sentence) right through; in, to, through, or during every part: *The house has been repainted throughout.* | *The army remained loyal throughout.*

through·put /ˈθruːpʊt/ *n* the amount of work, materials, etc., dealt with in a given time, e.g. by a computer

Through the Look·ing-Glass /ˌ· · ˈ·· ·/ a children's book by Lewis Carroll, in which Alice visits a strange world –see also ALICE IN WONDERLAND, TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE

through·way /ˈθruːweɪ/ *n* a THRUWAY

throve /θrəʊv/ *past tense of* THRIVE

throw[1] /θrəʊ/ *v* **threw** /θruː/, **thrown** /θrəʊn/ **1** [I;T (**at, to**)] to cause (something) to move rapidly through the air by a sudden movement or straightening of the arm: *It's my turn to throw.* | *He threw the ball 100 metres.* | *Someone threw a stone at me.* | *Throw the ball to me.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *Throw me the ball.* | (fig.) *She threw me an angry look.* (=looked angrily at me) | (fig.) *We can't solve this problem simply by* **throwing money at it.** (=by no other method except spending a lot of money) **2** [T+*obj+adv/prep*] to move or put suddenly or forcefully into a particular position or state: *If you keep breaking the club rules you'll get thrown out.* (=you'll be forced to leave) | *The general threw a ring of soldiers around the area to prevent the riots from spreading.* | *She threw herself down on the bed.* | *This new system has thrown us all into confusion.* | *The unexpected attack momentarily threw her off balance but she quickly regained control.* **3** [T+*obj+adv/prep*, esp. OFF, ON] to put on or take off (a garment) hastily: *She threw off her clothes and jumped into the water.* | *She threw a shawl over her shoulders.* **4** [T] to move (a SWITCH, handle, etc.) in order to connect or disconnect parts of a machine, apparatus, etc. **5** [T] to send out or direct: *The sun threw shadows on the grass.* | *The single light bulb threw a dim light.* | (fig.) *I wonder if this new clue will* **throw** *any further* **light on** *the mystery.* | (fig.) *This new evidence* **throws doubt on** *his explanation.* (=suggests that it is not true) **6** [T] to hit (someone) with (a blow, stroke, etc.): *He was disqualified for throwing an illegal punch.* **7** [T] to roll (a DICE) **8** [T] to get (a particular number) by rolling a DICE: *I threw a six.* **9** [T] to cause to fall to the ground: *His horse threw him.* **10** [T] *infml* to arrange or give (a party, dinner, etc.) **11** [T] *infml* to confuse; shock: *His unexpected answer threw me for a moment.* **12** [T] to shape (an object) on a POTTER'S WHEEL **13** [T] to make (one's voice) appear to be coming from somewhere other than its actual place of origin: *Ventriloquists have to be able to throw their voice.* **14** [T] *infml* to lose (a fight or match) on purpose **15** [T] *infml* to have a sudden attack of (usu. violent feelings): *I can't tell my parents – they'd throw a fit!* | *The little girl threw a tantrum|scene when she was told to stay behind.* **16 throw something (back) in someone's face** *infml* to mention to someone in a blaming way something bad they have done; REPROACH someone with something: *But all that happened years ago; why do you throw it (back) in my face now?* **17 throw caution to the winds** to behave intentionally in a way that shows no concern for the possible (bad) results of one's actions; take risks on purpose **18 throw cold water on** to speak discouragingly about (a plan, suggestion, etc.) **19 throw good money after bad** to waste money by spending it on something that has already failed or is certain to bring no good result **20 throw oneself at: a** to rush violently towards (someone) **b** to attempt forcefully to win the love of (someone) **21 throw oneself into** to do or take part in eagerly and actively **22 throw one's hat into the ring** to (declare one's intention to) join in and compete **23 throw one's weight about/around** *derog* to give orders to others, because one thinks one is important **24 throw the book at** *infml* (esp. of the police or a judge) to make all possible charges against (someone) – ~**er** *n*

throw sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] **1** to get rid of (something not wanted or needed); DISCARD: *You should throw away all those old clothes you never wear.* **2** to lose by foolishness; waste: *This could be the best chance you'll ever have; don't throw it away.* –see also THROWAWAY

throw sbdy./sthg. **back on** sthg. *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] to cause to have to depend on (something) after something else has failed: *Her friends had deserted her, and she was thrown back on her own resources.*

throw sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to supply in addition to something else without increasing the price: *When I bought the house, I got the carpets and curtains thrown in.* **2** *AmE* to add to a discussion, plan, etc.: *I threw in an idea that would shorten the production process.* **3 throw in the sponge/towel** *infml* to admit defeat

throw sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** to free oneself from (something bad); recover from: *It took me a week to throw off my cold.* **2** to escape from (someone or something chasing one): *We'll throw them off at the bridge.* **3** to cause (someone) to lose their way, direction, etc.: *The criminal dived into the river to* **throw** *the police dogs* **off the track.** —see also THROW[1] (2)

throw sthg. **open** *phr v* [T (**to**)] **1** to allow the general public to enter (a place): *The queen has thrown open her castle for the summer.* **2** to make open: *The competition was thrown open to sportsmen from all countries.*

throw sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to get rid of; DISCARD or force to leave: *You really should throw out that filthy old sofa and get a new one.* **2** to refuse to accept; REJECT: *The committee threw out my suggestions.* **3** to say carelessly or without considering the result: *The teacher threw out a few ideas* (=offered some suggestions) *and asked the students to write an essay.* **4** *BrE* to confuse or worry: *Her sudden resignation completely threw me out.*

throw sbdy. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] *infml* to end a relationship with

throw sthg./sbdy. ↔ **together** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] **1** *sometimes derog* to build or make hastily: *I just threw the meal together so I hope it's all right.* **2** to bring together, esp. into a relationship: *Chance threw us together at a party.*

throw up *phr v* **1** [T] (**throw** sthg. ↔ **up**) *infml* to stop doing: *I hear you've thrown up your job.* **2** [I] *infml for* VOMIT[1] **3** [T] (**throw** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**) to produce; bring into existence: *The discussion has thrown up a lot of interesting ideas.*

throw[2] *n* **1** an act of throwing **2** the distance to which something is thrown: *a throw of 100 metres | a record throw* **3** the result of throwing in DARTS, DICE, etc. —see also STONE'S THROW

throw·a·way /ˈθrəʊəweɪ/ *adj* [A] **1** (of a remark) said with false carelessness, seeming to have no regard for the effect: *The comedy script is full of throwaway lines.* **2** intended to be thrown away after use: *a throwaway paper cup* —see also THROW **away**

throw·back /ˈθrəʊbæk/ *n* [(**to**)] (an example of) a return to something in the past: *These modern fashions are a throwback to the 1950s.*

throw-in /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in football) an act of throwing the ball back on from the side of the field after it has gone out of play

thru /θruː/ *adj, adv, prep AmE infml* through

thrum /θrʌm/ *v* **-mm-** [I (**on**);T] *rare* to STRUM

thrush[1] /θrʌʃ/ *n* a singing bird with a brownish back and spotted breast —see picture at BIRD

thrush[2] *n* [U] an infectious disease of the mouth and throat, esp. in children, and of the VAGINA in adult women, caused by the FUNGUS Candida Albicans

thrust[1] /θrʌst/ *v* **thrust** **1** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to push forcefully and suddenly: *The thieves thrust him into the back room and tied him up. | He thrust the gun into his pocket.* | (fig.) *The actress said she had been perfectly happy until fame was* **thrust upon** *her.* (=she became famous without wanting to be) **2** [I (**at**)] to make a sudden forward stroke with a sword, knife, etc.

thrust[2] *n* **1** [C] a forceful forward movement or push: *The invading army made a sudden thrust to the north.* | (fig.) *The company is planning a big new thrust into the Japanese market.* **2** [U] *tech* the force pushing an object, esp. a plane, forward; forward-moving power of an engine: *This rocket engine develops several thousand pounds of thrust.* **3** [U (**of**)] the main meaning or central point: *The thrust of her argument was that all state interference in industry was wrong.* —see also CUT AND THRUST

thrust·er /ˈθrʌstəʳ/ *n* a small ROCKET, esp. for controlling the height or direction of a spacecraft

thru·way , throughway /ˈθruːweɪ/ *n AmE* a very wide road for high-speed traffic which one must usu. pay to use

thud[1] /θʌd/ *n* a dull sound as caused by a heavy object falling to the ground: *The encyclopedia fell to the floor with a thud.*

thud[2] *v* **-dd-** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to move, fall, or hit something so as to make a thud: *The arrow thudded into the target.*

thug /θʌg/ *n* a violent man, esp. a criminal

thumb[1] /θʌm/ *n* **1** the short thick finger that is set apart from the other four —see picture at HAND **2** the part of a GLOVE that fits over this **3 all thumbs** *infml* very awkward with the hands: *I seem to be all thumbs today.* **4 thumbs down** (an expression of dissatisfaction or disapproval shown by holding the thumb downwards): *Our plan* **got the thumbs down.** (=was not accepted) **5 thumbs up** (an expression of satisfaction, victory, or approval shown by holding the thumb upwards): *The chairman has* **given** *our plan* **the thumbs up.** (=approved it) **6 under someone's thumb** *infml* under the control, power, or influence of someone —see also GREEN THUMB, TOM THUMB, RULE OF THUMB, OPPOSABLE THUMB, **twiddle one's thumbs** (TWIDDLE[1])

thumb[2] *v* [T] **1** *infml* to ask passing motorists for (a free ride) by holding out one's hand with the thumb raised: *I* **thumbed a lift** *to London.* —compare HITCH[1] (2) **2 thumb one's nose at** *infml* to refuse to accept or consider, esp. in an offensive way: *Young people in the 1960s thumbed their noses at traditional sexual morality.*

thumb through (sthg.) *phr v* [I;T] to look through (a book) quickly

thumb·nail[1] /ˈθʌmneɪl/ *n* the nail on the upper outer end of the thumb

thumbnail[2] *adj* [A] (of something written) quite short: *a thumbnail sketch/description*

thumb·screw /ˈθʌmskruː/ *n* an instrument used in former times to cause great pain by crushing the thumbs

thumb·tack /ˈθʌmtæk/ *n AmE for* DRAWING PIN —see picture at PIN

thump[1] /θʌmp/ *v* **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T] to hit with a heavy blow: *The boxer's fist thumped into the punchbag. | The little boy threatened to thump his brother.* | (fig.) *He thumped out a tune on the old piano.* **2** [I] to produce a repeated dull sound by beating, falling, walking heavily, etc.: *The excitement made her heart thump.* | (fig.) *I've got a thumping headache.*

thump[2] *n* (the dull sound of) a heavy blow

thump·ing /ˈθʌmpɪŋ/ *adj, adv* [A] *esp. BrE infml* very (big): *a thumping great house | The government was returned to power with a thumping majority.*

thun·der[1] /ˈθʌndəʳ/ *n* [U] **1** the loud explosive noise that usu. follows a flash of lightning: *There's thunder in the air.* (=thunder seems likely) | (fig.) *We could hear the thunder of distant guns.* | (fig.) *He came in with a face* **like/as black as thunder.** (=showing great anger) **2 in thunder** *old-fash* (used for giving force to an angry question): *What in thunder do you think you're doing?* —see also BLOOD-AND-THUNDER, **steal someone's thunder** (STEAL[1])

▷ USAGE Note the fixed phrase **thunder and lightning.**◁

thunder[2] *v* **1** [*it*+I] to produce thunder: *The dog always hides under the bed when it thunders.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*] **a** to produce loud deep sounds like this: *The guns thundered in the distance.* **b** to move making such sounds: *The huge aircraft thundered along the runway.* **3** [T (OUT)] to shout loudly: *"Get out!" he thundered.* —~**er** *n*

Thun·der·birds /ˈθʌndəbɜːdz‖-dərbɜːrdz/ a popular British television programme for children in which the characters are PUPPETS. It is about a family of brothers who save people in danger using special aircraft and other vehicles, called **Thunderbird 1, Thunderbird 2**, etc. The programmes used to begin with the words "Thunderbirds are go!" —see colour picture on page 686

thun·der·bolt /ˈθʌndəbəʊlt‖-dər-/ *n* **1** a flash of lightning and crash of thunder together **2** an imaginary weapon thrown by the god Jupiter, causing thunder and lighting **3** a sudden event which causes great shock, anxiety, etc.: *The news of his death was a real thunderbolt.*

thun·der·clap /ˈθʌndəklæp‖-ər-/ *n* a single loud crash of thunder

thun·der·cloud /ˈθʌndəklaʊd‖-ər-/ *n* a large dark cloud producing thunder and lightning

Thun·der·er /ˈθʌndərəʳ/, **The** an informal name for *The Times* newspaper

thun·der·head /ˈθʌndəhed ‖ -ʳr-/ *n* a large cloud which appears very tall and which will produce thunder

thun·der·ing /ˈθʌndərɪŋ/ *adj, adv* [A] *BrE old-fash infml* very (great, bad, severe, etc.): *That's a thundering (great) lie!*

thun·der·ous /ˈθʌndərəs/ *adj* extremely loud: *thunderous applause* —~**ly** *adv*

thun·der·storm /ˈθʌndəstɔːm‖-dərstɔːrm/ *n* a storm of very heavy rain and thunder and lightning

thun·der·struck /ˈθʌndəstrʌk‖-ər-/ *adj* [F] extremely surprised; shocked

thun·der·y /ˈθʌndəri/ *adj* (of the weather) giving signs that thunder is likely

Thur·ber /ˈθɜːbəʳ‖ˈθɜːr-/, **James** (1894–1961) an American humorous writer and CARTOONIST (=person who makes humorous drawings). His work appeared often in *New Yorker* magazine.

Thurs·day /ˈθɜːzdi‖ˈθɜːr-/ (*written abbrev.* **Thur.** *or* **Thurs.**) *n* [C;U] the fourth day of the week, between Wednesday and Friday: *He'll arrive on Thursday.* | (*BrE infml & AmE*) *He'll arrive Thursday.* | *It happened on Thursday afternoon.* | *She left last Thursday.* | *We do all our shopping on Thursdays.* | *My birthday is on a Thursday this year.* —see DAY (CULTURAL NOTE)

thus /ðʌs/ *adv fml* **1** in this manner; in the way stated: *The police tapped the terrorists' phone, and the information thus collected was used at their trial.* | (*old use*) *Thus said the Lord...* **2** by this means or with this result; HENCE: *The new machines will work twice as fast, thus greatly reducing costs.* **3 thus far** until now; to this point

thwack /θwæk/ *n, v* WHACK

thwart[1] /θwɔːt‖θwɔːrt/ *v* [T] to prevent from happening or succeeding: *Our plans for a picnic were thwarted by the rain.*

thwart[2] *n tech* a seat across a rowing boat, for the rower

thy /ðaɪ/ *determiner old use* (*possessive form of* **thou**) your: *We praise thy name, o Lord.*

thyme /taɪm/ *n* [U] a small plant grown for its leaves, which are used for giving a special taste to food

thy·mus /ˈθaɪməs/ also **thymus gland** /ˈ·· ˌ·/— *n* an organ in the chest or neck of most animals with backbones, which helps develop the body's ability to fight disease, and is most active in the young

thy·roid /ˈθaɪrɔɪd/ also **thyroid gland** /ˈ·· ˌ·/— *n* an organ in the neck that has an important effect on the development of the mind and body —see picture at RESPIRATORY

thy·self /ðaɪˈself/ *pron old use* **1** (*reflexive form of* **thou**) **2** (*strong form of* **thou**) —see YOURSELF (USAGE)

ti /tiː/ also **si**— *n* [S;U] the seventh note in the SOL-FA musical scale

Ti·a Ma·ri·a /ˌtiːə məˈriːə/ *n* [C,U] *tdmk* a strong alcoholic drink made in the West Indies, usu. drunk from a small glass after a meal

Tian·an·men Square /ˌtjen-ænmən ˈskweəʳ/ a very large public square in Peking, which in 1989 was the scene of violent fighting between mainly unarmed Chinese students and the army, ending in defeat for the students, with an unknown number of deaths

ti·a·ra /tiˈɑːrə/ *n* **1** a piece of jewellery that looks like a small crown, worn on the head by women at formal dances, dinners, etc. **2** the crown worn by the POPE

Ti·bet /tɪˈbet/ a self-governing REGION of SW China, consisting mainly of very high country and mountains; capital Lhasa

Ti·bet·an /tɪˈbetn/ *n* **1** [C] a person from Tibet **2** [U] the language of Tibet —**Tibetan** *adj* : *a Tibetan monk*

tib·i·a /ˈtɪbiə/ *n* **-iae** /i-iː/ *or* **-ias** *med for* SHINBONE —see picture at SKELETON

tic /tɪk/ *n* a sudden uncontrolled movement of the muscles, esp. in the face, usu. because of a nervous illness: *He has a nervous tic.* —compare TWITCH[2]

tick[1] /tɪk/ *n* **1** a short sudden regularly repeated sound made by a clock or watch **2** *BrE* ‖ **check** *AmE*— mark (✓) put against an answer, name on a list, etc., to show that it is correct, that the person is present, etc. **3** *infml, esp. BrE* a short time; moment: *I'll be down in a tick.* | *I'm going to the shops but I'll only be a couple of ticks.*

tick[2] *v* **1** [I] (of a clock, watch, etc.) to make a regularly repeated short sudden sound **2** [T (OFF)] *BrE* ‖ **check** *AmE*— to mark (an answer, name, etc.) with a TICK[1] (2) to show that it is correct **3 make someone/something tick** *infml* to provide a person/thing with reasons for behaving, working, etc., in a particular way: *He's a strange character; I've never been able to work out what makes him tick.*

tick away *phr v* **1** [T] (**tick** sthg.↔**away**) (of a clock, watch, etc.) to show the passing of (minutes, seconds, etc.) by ticking: *The old grandfather clock ticked away the hours.* **2** [I] (of time) to go by: *As the hours ticked away, we waited anxiously for news.*

tick sbdy. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** *BrE infml* ‖ **tell** sbdy. **off** *AmE* to speak sharply to, expressing disapproval or annoyance —see also TICKING OFF **2** *AmE infml* to make angry or to annoy: *He ticks me off by the way he's always taking charge.*

tick over *phr v* [I] *esp. BrE* **1** (of a motor engine) to continue working at the slowest possible speed but without moving the vehicle **2** to continue to operate, but usu. at a low level of activity: *During the summer months the company just ticks over.* | *an increase in government spending to keep the economy ticking over*

tick[3] *n* a very small insect-like animal that buries itself in the skin of animals and sucks their blood

tick[4] *n* [(**on**) U] *BrE infml for* CREDIT[1] (1), esp. with a small shop: *Will you let me have these things on tick until I get paid tomorrow?*

tick·er /ˈtɪkəʳ/ *n esp. BrE sl* the heart: *She's got a weak ticker.*

tick·er·tape /ˈtɪkəteɪp‖-ər-/ *n* [U] very long narrow lengths of paper on which information is printed by a special machine. Tickertape is sometimes thrown from high buildings in the US to greet famous people who are visiting a town: *The astronauts were given a tickertape welcome in New York.* | *A* **tickertape parade** *was held for the returning soldiers.*

tick·et[1] /ˈtɪkɪt/ *n* **1** [C] a printed piece of paper or card given to someone to show that they have paid for a service such as a journey on a bus, entrance into a cinema, etc.: *a bus/train/cinema ticket* | *a ticket collector at a railway station* | *Entrance to the theatre is* **by ticket** *only.* —see also SEASON TICKET **2** [C] a piece of card or paper that shows the price, size, etc., of an object for sale in a shop **3** [C] a printed notice of an offence against the driving laws, which means that the offender must pay money as a punishment: *If you leave your car there you might get a* **(parking) ticket.** **4** [C] *esp. AmE* a list of people supported by one political party in an election: *on the Democratic ticket* **5** [*the*+S] *infml* the thing needed: *That cup of coffee was just the ticket.*

ticket[2] *v* [T (**for**)] **1** to intend (something) for a certain use or purpose: *These cars have been ticketed for sale abroad.* **2** *esp. AmE* to give a TICKET[1] (3) to: *She was ticketed for illegal parking.* **3** to put a TAG or LABEL on

tick·ing /ˈtɪkɪŋ/ *n* [U] the thick strong usu. cotton cloth used for making MATTRESS and PILLOW covers

ticking off /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **telling off** *esp AmE*— *n* **tickings off** a usu. spoken expression of annoyance or disapproval: *I got a ticking off from the teacher for being late.* —see also TICK **off**

tick·le[1] /ˈtɪkəl/ *v* **1** [T] to touch (someone, part of their body, etc.) lightly with the fingers, a feather, etc., to produce laughter or a feeling of nervous excitement. **2** [I] to feel or give a sensation of being tickled in part of the body: *I don't like these rough sheets; they tickle.* | *My foot tickles/is tickling.* **3** [T] to delight or amuse: *I was tickled by her description of the wedding.* **4 tickled pink/to death** *infml* very pleased or amused: *He's tickled pink with his new stereo system.* **5 tickle the ivories** *humor* to play the piano

tickle[2] *n* an act or feeling of tickling: *I've got a slight tickle in my throat and it's making me cough.* —see also SLAP AND TICKLE

tick·lish /ˈtɪklɪʃ/ *adj* **1** (of a person or part of their body) sensitive to being tickled **2** (of a problem, situation, etc.) difficult; needing special care and attention —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

tick-tack-toe, tic-tac-toe /ˌtɪk tæk ˈtəʊ / *n* [U] *AmE for* NOUGHTS AND CROSSES

tid·al /ˈtaɪdl/ *adj* [*no comp.*] of or having a TIDE: *tidal currents* | *The river is tidal up to this bridge.*

tidal wave /ˈ·· ·/ also **tsunami** *fml*— *n* a very large dangerous ocean wave caused by an underwater explosion, EARTHQUAKE, etc.: (fig.) *There was a tidal wave of public disapproval against the government's plans.*

tid·bit /ˈtɪdˌbɪt/ *n AmE for* TITBIT

tid·dler /ˈtɪdləʳ/ *n BrE infml* **1** a very small fish **2** a small child **3** something small and unimportant: *Compared with some of its commercial rivals, the company is just a tiddler.*

tid·dly, -dley /ˈtɪdli/ *adj BrE infml euph* **1** slightly drunk **2** very small

tid·dly·winks /ˈtɪdliwɪŋks/ also **tid·dle·dy·winks** /ˈtɪdldiwɪŋks/ *AmE– n* [U] a game, played mainly by children, in which the players try to make small round pieces of plastic jump into a cup by pressing their edges down hard with a larger piece of plastic

tide[1] /taɪd/ *n* **1** [(*the*) C] the regular rise and fall of the sea caused by the pull of the moon and sun: *The sea comes right up to the cliffs when the tide is in.* (=has risen to its highest point) | *The tide is rising|falling.* | *The tide is beginning to turn.* (=has reached its highest/lowest point and is changing direction) –see also HIGH TIDE, LOW TIDE **2** [C] a current of water caused by this: *Strong tides make swimming dangerous.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a feeling or tendency that moves or changes like the tide: *The tide of public opinion seems to be turning against the government.* | *The head teacher called a meeting in an attempt to* **stem** (=hold back) **the (rising) tide** *of protest against his methods.* | *It's easier to* **swim with the tide** *than to oppose the views of the majority.* | *The victory at Midway began the* **turn of the tide** *in the battle for the Pacific* (it marked a change in the luck of those fighting). **4** [U] *old use* (*usu. in comb.*) time of the day or year: *Christians rejoice at Christmastide.* | *The shadows of eventide* (=evening) *began to fall.*

tide[2] *v*

tide sbdy. **over** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] to help through (a difficult period): *Can you lend me £10 to tide me over (the next few days)?*

tide·mark /ˈtaɪdmɑːk‖-mɑːrk/ *n* **1** a mark left by the tide at its lowest or highest point **2** *infml* a mark round the inside of an emptied bath that shows the level to which the bath had been filled **3** *humor* a dirty mark on the skin left by incomplete washing, often by children

tide·wa·ter /ˈtaɪdˌwɔːtəʳ‖-ˌwɔː-, -ˌwɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** water that flows onto the land when the tide is very high **2** the water in the TIDAL parts of rivers and streams

tide·way /ˈtaɪdweɪ/ *n* **1** a narrow stretch of water through which the tide flows **2** a strong current running through a tideway

tid·ings /ˈtaɪdɪŋz/ *n* [P (**of**)] *old use* news: *The messenger brought tidings of the battle.* | *glad tidings.* (=good news)

ti·dy[1] /ˈtaɪdi/ *adj* **1** neat and orderly in appearance or habits: *a tidy room* | *a tidy person* | (fig.) *a tidy mind* **2** [A] *infml* (of amounts) quite large; SUBSTANTIAL: *That must have cost you a tidy sum.* | *a tidy profit* –**-dily** *adv* –**-diness** *n* [U]

tidy[2] *v* [I;T (UP)] to make neat; put in order: *When are you going to tidy your room up?* | *We'll have to tidy away these papers before we have dinner.*

tie[1] /taɪ/ *n* **1** also **necktie** *esp. AmE–* a band of cloth worn round the neck inside a shirt collar and tied in a knot at the front –compare CRAVAT and see also BLACK-TIE, BOW TIE, OLD SCHOOL TIE, WHITE-TIE **2** a cord, string, etc., used for fastening something: *She closed the freezer bag with a plastic tie.* **3** [*usu. pl.*] something that unites; BOND: *family ties* | *ties of friendship* **4** [*usu. sing.*] something that takes one's attention and limits one's freedom: *Young children can be a tie.* **5** (the result of) a game, election, etc., in which each competitor gains an exactly equal number of points, votes, etc.; DRAW: *The election ended in a tie.* –see also CUP TIE **6** *AmE for* SLEEPER (3)

tie[2] *v* **tied**; *present participle* **tying** **1** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to fasten with a cord, rope, etc.: *Make sure the parcel is securely tied up before you post it.* | *Tie this label onto your suitcase.* | *She tied her horse to the post.* | *The robbers tied him up and locked him in the cupboard.* | (fig.) *I've been tied to* (=too busy to leave) *my desk|to the house for the last few weeks.* | *I'd like to help you but I'm afraid* **my hands are tied**. (=I am not free to act as I wish) **2** [T] to fasten by drawing together and knotting: *Can you tie your own shoe laces yet?* | *She tied a scarf over her head.* | *to tie a knot* (=form one in this way) **3** [I] to be fastened by string, LACES, etc., that are drawn together and knotted: *My dress ties at the back.* **4** [T **(to)** *usu. pass.*] to cause to be connected or dependent in some way: *The rise in welfare payments is tied to the retail price index.* **5** [I **(with, for)**] to be equal to an opponent in a competition: *I tied with my friend for second place in the exams.* **6** [T *usu. pass.*] to finish (a match, competition, etc.) with equal points **7 tie one on** *AmE sl* to get drunk: *He really tied one on at the office Christmas party.* **8 tie the knot** *pomp* to get married **9 tie someone (up) in knots** *infml* to confuse someone completely, esp. with difficult questions

tie sbdy. **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to limit the freedom of; RESTRICT: *Having an old sick relative to look after really ties you down.* **2** [**(on, to)**] to force to take a particular course of action, accept particular conditions, etc.: *He seemed very vague about it, but eventually I managed to tie him down to the Saturday.*

tie in *phr v* [I (**with**)] to have a close connection (to); CORRESPOND (with): *This witness's information doesn't tie in with the facts.* | *We've planned this broadcast to tie in with* (=happen at the same time as) *the anniversary celebrations.* –see also TIE-IN

tie sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] **1** [**(in)**] to place (money) in an account, business, etc., where free use is limited: *All his money is tied up in stocks and shares.* **2** to limit the free use of (money, property, etc.) by legal conditions: *Under the terms of the trust the money was tied up until her 21st birthday.* **3** [**(with)**] to connect; LINK: *The police are trying to tie up his escape from prison with the murder.* **4** delay or limit the free movement of: *The accident tied up the traffic for hours.* | *I can't come out tonight – I'm a bit* **tied up** *at work.* (=very busy) –see also TIE-UP

tie·break·er /ˈtaɪˌbreɪkəʳ/ also **tie·break** /ˈtaɪbreɪk/– *n* **1** (in tennis) a number of quickly-played points (not part of a standard game), played to decide the winner of a SET[3] (4) in which each side has won six games **2** (in a game or QUIZ where more than one competitor has gained the same number of correct answers) a final question to decide who wins

tied cot·tage /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a house owned by a farmer and rented to one of his workers for as long as the worker continues to be employed by the farmer

tied house /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a PUB that is controlled by a particular beer-making firm, and must sell the beer that the firm makes –compare FREE HOUSE

tie-dye /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T] to tie (a garment) in knots and colour it with DYE so that some parts take more dye than others

tie-in /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [**(between, with)**] a TIE-UP (1) **2** a product, such as a record, book, toy, etc., that is connected in some way with a new film, TV show, sporting event, etc. –see also TIE **in**

tie-on /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] (of a LABEL, TAG, etc.) fastened to an object by tying

tie·pin /ˈtaɪˌpɪn/ *n* a small decorative CLIP[1] (1), often of silver or gold, for holding a TIE[1] (1) in place –see picture at PIN

tier /tɪəʳ/ *n* **1** any of a number of rows or levels, esp. of seats, shelves, etc., rising one behind or above another: *Her wedding cake had three tiers.* | (fig.) *The Health Service in Britain has three tiers* (=levels) *of management.* **2 -tiered** /tɪəd‖tɪərd/ having the stated number of tiers

Ti·er·ra del Fue·go /tiˌerə del ˈfweɪgəʊ/ a group of islands off the S coast of S America, owned by Chile and Argentina

tie-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [**(between, with)**] a close connection, esp. of cause and effect; LINK: *Doctors have established a tie-up between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.* **2** a partnership; MERGER **3** *AmE* a short interruption in work because of an accident, industrial trouble, etc. –see also TIE **up**

tiff /tɪf/ *n* a slight quarrel: *a lovers' tiff*

Tif·fa·ny glass /ˈtɪfəni glɑːs‖-glæs/ *n* [U] a shiny coloured glass which cannot be clearly seen through, often used to make decorative objects such as VASES and LAMP SHADES

tif·fin /ˈtɪfɪn/ *n* [U] *IndE & PakE or old-fash BrE* a light meal taken at midday or in the middle of the morning

ti·ger /ˈtaɪgəʳ/ **tigress** *fem.– n* **1** (*pl.* **tigers** *or* **tiger**) a very large fierce Asian wild cat that has yellowish fur with black bands. A poem about a tiger by William Blake begins with the words:

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright
In the forests of the night. —see picture at BIG CATS **2** a person like a tiger in fierceness, courage, etc. —see also PAPER TIGER

tiger lil·y /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a LILY (= type of plant) grown esp. for its black-spotted, hanging, orange flowers

tight[1] /taɪt/ *adj* **1** closely fastened, held, knotted, etc.; firmly fixed in place: *This drawer is so tight I can't open it.* **2** pulled out as far as possible; fully stretched; TAUT: *Pull the thread tight.* | *The cover of the drum has to be stretched until it's really tight.* **3** fitting part of the body (too) closely: *tight shoes* | *These trousers are* **a tight fit.** —see also SKIN-TIGHT . **4** well ordered or firmly controlled: *marching in tight formation* | *There was tight security at the airport when the President's plane landed.* | (*infml*) *The jazz group is very tight.* (=playing exactly together) | Spending is kept within tight limits. | *The captain* **runs a tight ship.** **5** leaving no free room or time; fully packed: *I've got a very tight schedule today so I can't see you until tomorrow.* | *Pack the cases as tight as possible.* **6** forming a small angle: *The aircraft had to do a tight turn to avoid the mountain.* **7** producing an uncomfortable feeling of closeness in part of the body: *a tight feeling in the chest* **8** marked by close competition: *It was a very tight finish; we scored the winning goal in the last minute.* **9** (of money) difficult to obtain, except at high rate of interest **10** *infml derog* ungenerous with money **11** [F] *infml* (rather) drunk **12 in a tight corner/spot** *infml* in a difficult situation —see also AIRTIGHT, WATERTIGHT — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

tight[2] *adv* **1** closely; firmly; tightly: *She held him tight in her arms.* | *The door was shut tight.* **2** *infml* thoroughly; well: *Sleep tight!* —see also **sit tight** (SIT)

▷USAGE Although **tight** is often used as an adverb, some people like the forms **tightly**/*more* **tightly**/*most* **tightly** better.◁

tight·en /ˈtaɪtn/ *v* [I;T (UP)] **1** to (cause to) become tight or tighter: *We must tighten these screws/ropes.* | *to tighten borrowing limits* —compare SLACKEN **2 tighten one's belt** *infml* to try to live on less money: *She's lost her job so she had to tighten her belt.*

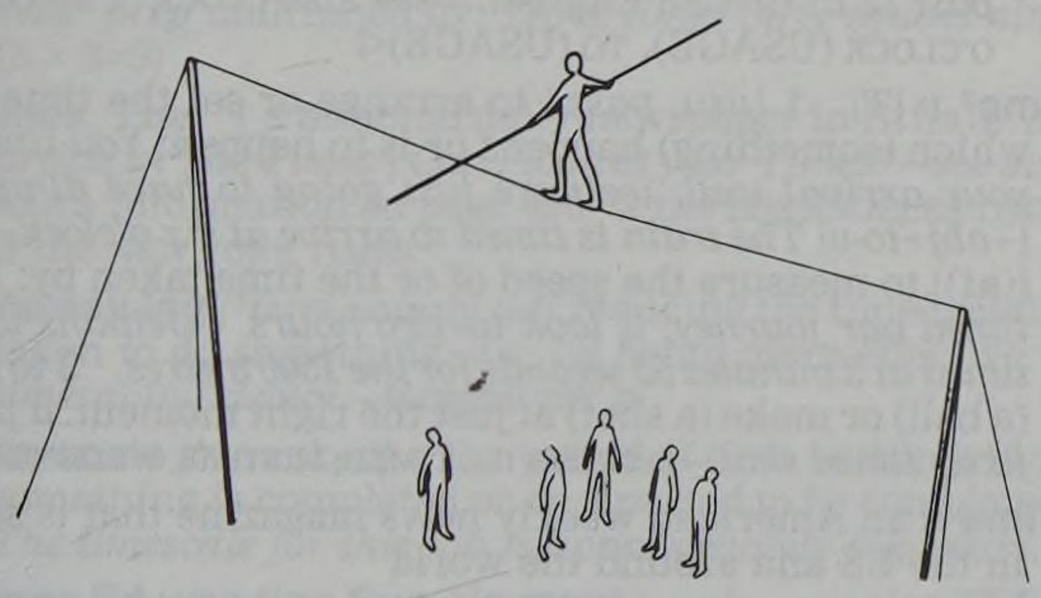
tighten (sthg.↔) **up** *phr v* [I (**on**);T] to (cause to) become firmer or more severe: *The government is tightening up (on) the driving laws.*

tight·fist·ed /ˌtaɪtˈfɪstɨd◂/ *adj infml* very ungenerous, esp. with money; STINGY: *a tightfisted old skinflint* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

tight-knit /ˌtaɪtˈnɪt◂/ *adj AmE* well arranged: *a tightknit plan*

tight-lipped /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** having the lips pressed together, esp. in determination or anger **2** unwilling to talk; silent: *He remained tight-lipped when questioned about his resignation.*

tightrope



tight·rope /ˈtaɪt-rəʊp/ *n* a tightly stretched rope or wire, high above the ground, on which tightrope walkers perform: (fig.) *The government is walking a tightrope between being too tough and not wanting to seem too weak.*

tightrope walk·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a person skilled in walking or doing tricks on a tightrope

tights /taɪts/ *n* [P] **1** *BrE* ‖ **panty hose** *AmE*— a very close fitting garment made of thin material which one can see through and covering the legs and lower part of the body, as worn by girls and women **2** a similar garment which is usu. coloured and cannot be seen through **3** *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **leotard** *AmE* — a similar garment covering the legs and body, worn by ACROBATS, BALLET dancers, etc. — see PAIR (USAGE); compare NYLONS, SOCK, STOCKING

tight·wad /ˈtaɪtwɒd‖-wɑːd/ *n AmE, infml derog* a person who does not spend or give money easily: *His dad's a real tightwad who won't give him a dime.*

ti·gress /ˈtaɪgrɨs/ *n* a female tiger

Ti·gris /ˈtaɪgrɨs/ [*the*] a river in SW Asia, flowing through Turkey and Iraq, with the SITES of several ancient cities on its banks

til /tɪl/ also **'til** *prep, conj AmE nonstandard* TILL[1]

til·de /ˈtɪldə/ *n* a mark (~) placed over the letter *n* in Spanish as a sign that it is to be pronounced /nj/

tile[1] /taɪl/ *n* **1** a thin shaped piece of baked clay used for covering roofs, walls, floors, etc. **2** an object like this made from plastic, rubber, etc., and used for covering floors and walls: *cork tiles* **3** a marked playing piece used in certain games: *Scrabble*®tiles **4 (out) on the tiles** *BrE infml* enjoying oneself in a wild manner: *a night on the tiles*

tile[2] *v* [T] to cover (a roof, floor, wall, etc.) with tiles: *a tiled floor* —**tiler** *n*

till[1] /tɪl, tl/ *prep, conj* until: *I'll keep it for you till Monday|till you come back.* —see TO (USAGE)

till[2] /tɪl/ *n* a drawer where money is kept in a shop —see also **have/with one's fingers in the till** (FINGER[1])

till[3] /tɪl/ *v* [T] *old use* to cultivate (the ground) — ~**er** *n*

till·age /ˈtɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] *old use* the act or practice of cultivating land

til·ler /ˈtɪlərˠ/ *n* a long handle fastened to a small boat's RUDDER so that it can be turned easily —see picture at YACHT

tilt[1] /tɪlt/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) slope (as if) by raising one end: *The table top suddenly tilted and all the plates and glasses crashed onto the floor.* | *(fig.) This piece of evidence may tilt the balance of opinion against the defendant.*

tilt at sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** to attack in speech or writing **2** (in former times) to charge at with a LANCE **3 tilt at windmills** to fight imaginary enemies

tilt[2] *n* **1** [C;U] a slope: *She wore her hat at a tilt over her left eye.* **2** [C] an act of tilting; tilting movement **3** [C (**at**)] an attack in speech or writing: *In his newspaper column this week he has one of his regular tilts at modern fashions.* **4 (at) full tilt** *infml* at full speed; with full force: *They rode down the hill at full tilt.*

tim·ber[1] /ˈtɪmbəˠ/ *n* **1** [U] *BrE* ‖ usu. **lumber** *AmE*— wood for building **2** [U] growing trees, esp. considered as a supply of wood for building **3** [C] a wooden beam, esp. forming part of a structure, such as a ship or a roof —see also HALF-TIMBERED

tim·ber[2] /ˌtɪmˈbɜːˠ/ *interj* (a warning shouted when a cut tree is about to fall down)

tim·ber·line /ˈtɪmbəlaɪn‖-ər-/ *n* [*the*+S] the TREELINE

tim·bre /ˈtæmbəˠ, ˈtɪm-/ *n* [C;U] *tech* the quality in a sound which allows one to tell the difference between sounds of the same level and loudness when made by different musical instruments or voices

tim·brel /ˈtɪmbrəl/ *n old use for* TAMBOURINE

Tim·buk·tu /ˌtɪmbʌkˈtuː/ a city in Mali, W Africa, a centre of the salt industry. People sometimes mention Timbuktu as an example of a place that is very far away: *enough cars to stretch from here to Timbuktu*

time[1] /taɪm/ *n* **1** [U] a continuous measurable quantity from the past, through the present, and into the future: *The universe exists in space and time.* **2** [U] the passing of the days, months, and years, considered as a whole: *Time goes by|passes quickly when you're enjoying yourself.* | *In ten years' time* (=10 years from now) *the children will all have grown up.* | *Only* **time will tell** *if you're right.* (=in the future we will find out if you were right) | *They'll have to change their decision; it's* **only a matter/question of time.** (=it must happen, but we do not yet know when) **3** [U] a particular system of measuring time: *British Summer Time* | *Eastern Standard Time* **4** [S;U] a limited period, e.g. the period that passes between two events, or the period needed or allowed for the completion of an action: *It will take you a long time to learn French properly.* | *Take more time and care over your work.* | *That all happened some time ago.* | *I don't get much time to watch television.* (=periods when I have

nothing else to do, and therefore can watch television) | *I'd love to stop and talk but I'm afraid I haven't* **got (the) time.** (=I am too busy doing other things) | *The traffic was light, so we* **made good time.** (=went more quickly than expected) | *What do you do in your* **spare time/free time?** (=when you are not working, studying, etc.) | *I can't decide yet – I need more time to think.* **5** [C] an occasion: *Every time I go there I seem to get sick.* | *"How many times did you try to phone her?" "I called seven times."* | *Next time you're in London come and visit us.* | **Nine times out of ten** (=nearly always) *the train is late.* **6** [C] also **times** *pl.*– a period or occasion and the particular experience connected with it: *We had a good time at the party.* | *We had* **the time of our lives.** (=we enjoyed ourselves greatly) | *The 1930s were hard times for many people.* | *I hear they gave him a pretty hard time at the interview.* (=asked him difficult questions, etc.) | *If you join the navy, don't expect to* **have an easy time (of it).** (=have an easy comfortable life) **7** [C] also **times** *pl.*– a period in history: *in ancient times* | *in Queen Victoria's time* **8** [(*the*) S] a particular point in the day stated in hours, minutes, seconds, etc.: *"What's the time?" "It's half past ten."* | *"What time does that programme start?" "10 o'clock."* **9** [C;U] (*sometimes in comb.*) a particular point in the day, year, etc.: *We both arrived at the same time.* | *By the time you receive this letter I will be on my way home.* | *It's quite warm for this time of year.* (=warmer than it usually is at this time) | *This time last year* (=at the same date a year ago) *I didn't have a job.* | *in summertime* **10** [C;U] (*sometimes in comb.*) a moment or period that is intended or suitable for a particular activity or event: [+*to-v*] *He's in a good mood, so now's the time to ask him about that loan.* | *Come on children, it's time for bed|it's bedtime.* [+(*that*)] *It's time you were in bed.* | *question time in the House of Commons* | *If you are thinking of buying a house,* **there's no time like the present.** (=now is the best time to do it) **11** [U] the point at which something is expected or arranged to happen: *to die before one's time* | *The plane arrived* **(dead) on time.** (=at exactly the right time) | *The work was completed* **ahead of time.** (=earlier than expected) | *"The train is just coming." "And* **about time too/not before time!**" (=it is later than expected) **12** [U] the moment at which something starts or esp. stops: *At 10.30 the landlord calls "Time!" and we all have to finish our drinks and leave.* | **Time's up!** *Put your pencils down and pass forward your test papers.* –see also FULL TIME, OPENING TIME **13** [C] the period in which an action is completed, esp. a performance in a race: *His time for the mile was just under four minutes.* **14** [U] *tech* the rate of speed of a piece of music: *You* **beat time** *and I'll play.* –see also **keep time** (TIME[1] (35b)) **15** [U] a period of imprisonment *infml* or of employment with the military: *He's* **done time/served time** *for burglary.* | *He served his time in the army and then went to college.* **16 about time** *infml* (used for suggesting that something should be done now or should have been done earlier): *It's about time you had your hair cut!* **17 against time** in an effort to do something within a certain limited period: *working against time to get the job finished* **18 ahead of one's time** –see TIME[1] (25b) **19 all the time** continuously: *Why must you keep complaining all the time?* **20 at a time** in a group of the stated number: *Please come in one at a time* (=singly), *not all together.* **21 a time to be born, and a time to die** *phrase from the Bible* a phrase from the Book of Ecclesiastes, part of a longer passage which begins: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,* and which is sometimes used by people saying that there is a proper time for any action **22 at one time** formerly: *At one time they used to mine coal in these valleys.* **23 at the time** at the moment when something happened: *It seemed like a good idea at the time.* **24 at times** sometimes: *At times I wonder if it's all worthwhile.* **25 before one's time: a** before one was born or came to a place: *I don't remember her – she must have been before my time.* **b** also **ahead of one's time**– too modern or original for the period one lives in: *As a painter, he was before his time.* **26 behind the times** old-fashioned **27 for a time** for a short period: *For a time the police thought she might be guilty, but before long they eliminated her from their list of suspects.* **28 for the time being** for a limited period at present: *Can you share a room for the time being? We'll let you have one on your own next week.* **29 from time out of mind** *lit or pomp* for a very long time **30 from time to time** sometimes; not very often: *They come to see us from time to time.* **31 have a lot of time for** *infml* to like and respect (esp. a person) **32 have no time for** *infml* to dislike; be unwilling to waste one's time with: *I have no time for people who mistreat animals.* **33 in no time (at all)** very quickly: *We'll have that leak fixed in no time.* **34 in time: a** after a certain amount of time has passed: *In time you'll forget him.* **b** early or soon enough: *Will you be home in time to see the children before they go to bed?* **c** at the correct rate or speed: *to sing|march|play in time* **35 keep time: a** (of a clock, watch, etc.) to work correctly **b** to follow the correct TIME[1] (14) **36 keep up/move/march with the times** to change one's own ideas, methods, etc., at the same rate as changing fashions, scientific developments, or social customs **37 many a time** *lit or old use* often; frequently **38 not give someone the time of day** to refuse to speak to or spend time with someone, esp. because one considers them unimportant **39 take one's time (over): a** to use as much time as is necessary (to do); not hurry: *There's no hurry; take your time!* **b** to take more time than is reasonable (to do): *The workmen seem to be taking their time over repairing this road!* **40 take time to smell the roses** not to spend one's whole life rushing and working, but to spend some time enjoying oneself **41 time after time** also **time and (time) again**– repeatedly: *I've told you time after time not to park there!* **42 time and a half** payment of a worker at one and a half times the usual rate: *We get time and a half for working on Sundays.* **43 time heals all wounds** *saying* grief and other kinds of emotional pain become less difficult to bear over a period of time **44 time is money** *saying* one should not waste time when one could be working and earning money **45 time is of the essence** it is important that we hurry and do not delay –see also TIMES, BIG TIME, DOUBLE TIME, FULL-TIME, HALF TIME, HIGH TIME, LEAD TIME, LOCAL TIME, PART-TIME, SHORT TIME, **beat time** (BEAT[1]), **bide one's time** (BIDE), **in good time** (GOOD[1]), **in one's own good time** (GOOD[1]), **kill time** (KILL[1]), **mark time** (MARK[2]), **move with the times** (MOVE[1]), **in the nick of time** (NICK[1]), **for old times' sake** (OLD), **once upon a time** (ONCE[1] (8)), **play for time** (PLAY[2]), **at the same time** (SAME[1]), **sign of the times** (SIGN[1])

▷ USAGE 1 If you use time sensibly or on things that are neither good nor bad, you **spend** *time*: *You should* **spend** *an hour every day practising the piano.* | *I* **spend** *a lot of (my) time wondering about Tom.* If you use time badly you **waste** *time*: *I* **wasted** *a whole hour trying to find a garage.* If you are trying to keep to a certain timetable you may also **lose** *time: I drove quickly, trying to make up for* **lost** *time.* | *We* **lost** *quite a lot of time on the journey because of a breakdown.* | If you have too much time which you try to fill you may **pass** the *time: Listening to the radio helps her to* **pass** *the time.* Or even (if you are waiting for something) **kill time:** *I'm just standing here,* **killing** *time until the shop opens.* 2 At 11.45, it is *a quarter of|to 12* in American English but *a quarter to 12* in British English. At 12.15 *it is a quarter after|past 12* in American English but *a quarter past 12* in British English. –see also CLOCK (USAGE), O'CLOCK (USAGE), TO (USAGE)◁

time[2] *v* [T] **1** [*usu. pass.*] to arrange or set the time at which (something) happens or is to happen: *You timed your arrival well; we were just going to have dinner.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The train is timed to arrive at six o'clock.* **2** [(**at**)] to measure the speed of or the time taken by: *We timed our journey; it took us two hours.* | *Jenkins was timed at 3 minutes 53 seconds for the 1500 metres.* **3** to hit (a ball) or make (a shot) at just the right moment: *a perfectly timed shot* –see also ILL-TIMED, MISTIME, WELL-TIMED

Time *n* an American weekly news magazine that is sold in the US and around the world

time-and-mo·tion /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *adj* [A] concerning the measurement and study of the effectiveness of work, esp. in industry: *a time-and-motion study*

time bomb /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a bomb that can be set to explode at a particular time **2** a situation, esp. in politics, that is likely to become very dangerous or difficult to handle: *The high level of youth unemployment is a time bomb that could one day have disastrous social consequences.*

time capsule /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a container that is filled with objects representative of its time and then buried, so that it can be dug up and examined in a future age

time card /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* TIME SHEET

time clock /ˈ· ·/ *n* a special clock which records the hour and minute one arrives at and leaves work: *He has* **to punch a time clock**.

time-con·sum·ing /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *adj* using or taking a long time or too much time: *Keeping the house clean can be a very time-consuming job.*

time ex·po·sure /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] (a picture taken by) EXPOSURE of film to the light for more than a second when taking a photograph

time-hon·oured /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj fml or pomp* respected because of age or long use: *a time-honoured custom*

time im·me·mo·ri·al /ˌ· ··ˈ···/ *n* **from/since time immemorial** *lit or pomp* since long ago in the past: *From time immemorial the tribe have buried their dead on this island.*

time·keep·er /ˈtaɪmˌkiːpəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who records the time of competitors in a race, workers in a factory, etc. **2** a clock or watch considered for its ability to tell the right time: *This old watch of mine's a good timekeeper.* —**-keeping** *n* [U]

time lag /ˈ· ·/ also **lag**— *n* a period of time between the first and second of two closely connected events

time-lapse /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or being a method of filming very slow actions (such as flowers growing) using many single pictures taken some time apart, which when run at the ordinary speed of a film show the action much faster

time·less /ˈtaɪmləs/ *adj* **1** lasting for ever; independent of time; unending: *the timeless universe* **2** *apprec* not changed by time: *the timeless beauty of Venice* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

time lim·it /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [(**on**)] a period of time within which something must be done

time·ly /ˈtaɪmli/ *adj fml* happening at just the right time; OPPORTUNE: *Your timely warning saved our lives.* —**-liness** *n* [U]

time ma·chine /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* an imaginary machine which can move a person backwards or forwards in time

time-out /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [C;U] **1** a short break during a sporting match, used for rest, instructions from the manager who calls for it, etc.: *The German requested a three-minute time-out to receive treatment.* **2** *infml* any short period of rest from an activity which involves a lot of effort

Time Out /ˌ· ˈ·/ a weekly London magazine giving details of all the events and LEISURE activities available in the city, esp. for young adults

time·piece /ˈtaɪmpiːs/ *n tech or old use* a clock or watch

tim·er /ˈtaɪməʳ/ *n* a person or machine that measures or records time: *Don't forget to set the timer on the oven|video recorder.* —see also EGG TIMER

times[1] /taɪmz/ *n* (used to show an amount that is calculated by multiplying something the stated number of times): *Their house is at least three times as big as ours|three times bigger than ours.*

times[2] *prep* multiplied by: *Three times three equals nine.* (3 × 3=9)

Times, The **1** a national daily newspaper in Britain: *an article in The Times | Can I look at your Times?* —see also extra information on page 896 **2** the LOS ANGELES TIMES **3** the NEW YORK TIMES

time·sav·ing /ˈtaɪmˌseɪvɪŋ/ *adj* reducing the time usually taken to do something, e.g. by being more effective: *a timesaving device* —**timesaver** *n*

time·scale /ˈtaɪmskeɪl/ *n* the period of time within which something is completed or is expected to be completed: *The timescale for this job is approximately two years.*

Times Ed·u·ca·tion Sup·ple·ment /ˌ· ··ˈ·· ˌ···/ also **TES**— [*the*] a British weekly newspaper on educational matters produced by *The Times*

time·serv·er /ˈtaɪmˌsɜːvəʳ‖-ɜːr-/ *n derog* someone who shapes their opinions and behaviour to please those in power at the time, in the hope of gaining advantage —**-serving** *n, adj* [U]

time·share /ˈtaɪmʃeəʳ/ *n, adj* (of the arrangement by which one buys or sells) a house, flat, etc. in which people buy the right to spend one or more weeks a year on holiday —see also extra information on page 632

time-shar·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** the handling by a computer of more than one PROGRAM at the same time **2** the buying of a timeshare

time sheet /ˈ· ·/ ‖ also **time card** *AmE*— *n* a sheet on which the hours worked by a person are recorded

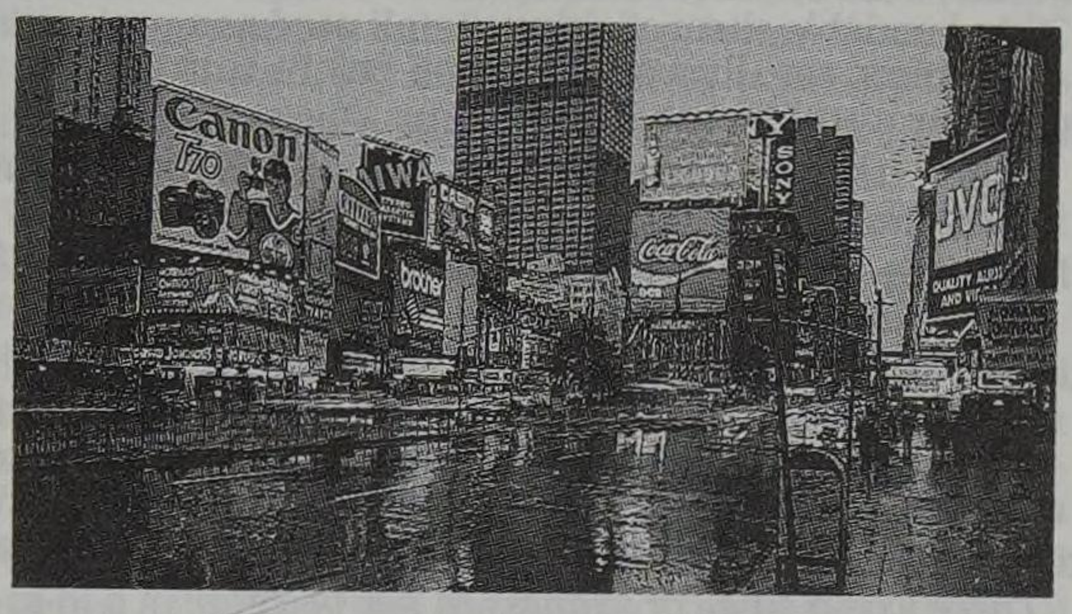
Times High·er Ed·u·ca·tion Sup·ple·ment /ˌ· ˌ·· ··ˈ·· ˌ···/ also **THES**— *n* [*the*] a British weekly newspaper on educational matters in the universities and other institutions of higher education, produced by *The Times*

time sig·nal /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a signal, esp. one broadcast on radio, showing an exact moment in time, so that clocks, watches, etc., may be set right

time sig·na·ture /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n tech* a mark, usu. in the form of two numbers one above the other, used when writing music, to show the RHYTHM of the music

Times Lit·e·ra·ry Sup·ple·ment /ˌ· ˈ···· ˌ···/ also **TLS**— [*the*] a British weekly newspaper which contains articles and information about literature, esp. about new books, produced by *The Times*

Times Square



Times Square /ˌ· ˈ·/ a place in New York City near many theatres. Each year there is a large New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square and at midnight, a large red ball is lowered down a building to show that the New Year has begun. —see colour map on page 1376

time switch /ˈ· ·/ *n* an electrical SWITCH that can be set to start a machine or operation at a particular time

time·ta·ble[1] /ˈtaɪmˌteɪbəl/ *n esp. BrE* ‖ **schedule** *AmE*— **1** a list of the times at which buses, trains, planes, etc., arrive and leave **2** a list of the times of classes in a school, college, etc. —compare CURRICULUM **3** a plan having a list of the times at which stated events are to happen: *the government's timetable for this session of Parliament | our timetable for the week|visit|meeting*

timetable[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *esp. BrE* ‖ **schedule** *AmE*— **1** [(**for**)] to plan for a particular future time: *The meeting is timetabled for 2 o'clock.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *It is timetabled to begin at 2 o'clock.* **2** to arrange according to a timetable: *Timetabling is the responsibility of the deputy headmaster.*

time·worn /ˈtaɪmwɔːn‖-wɔːrn/ *adj* showing signs of damage and decay through age: (fig.) *timeworn clichés|excuses* (=used too often to have value)

time zone /ˈ· ·/ *n* any of the 24 parts, each about 15° wide, into which the Earth is divided for the purpose of keeping time. Each time zone is usu. one hour different from those on either side.

tim·id /ˈtɪmɨd/ *adj* afraid; lacking courage or confidence: *a timid deer|young girl* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ity** /tɨˈmɪdɨti/ *n* [U]

tim·ing /ˈtaɪmɪŋ/ *n* [U] the choosing of exactly the right moment to do something so as to get the best effect: *I don't think much of their timing — introducing a new brand of suntan oil in November. | The batsman's|dancer's timing is perfect.*

tim·o·rous /ˈtɪmərəs/ *adj fml* easily frightened; nervous and lacking confidence — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

tim·pa·ni /ˈtɪmpəni/ *n* [(*the*) U+*sing./pl. v*] a set of KETTLEDRUMS

tim·pa·nist /ˈtɪmpənɨst/ *n* a person who plays a KETTLEDRUM

tin[1] /tɪn/ *n* **1** [U] a soft whitish metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is easily shaped, and is used to cover metal objects with a protective shiny surface: *a tin box* **2** [C (**of**)] *BrE* ‖ **can** *esp. AmE*— a small closed metal container in which food or drink is sold: *a tin of beans | a sardine tin* **3** [C] a metal container in which food is **a**

stored: *a biscuit tin* **b** cooked (*esp. BrE* ‖ **pan** *esp. AmE*): *a bread tin | a roasting tin* —see picture at TRAY

tin[2] *BrE* ‖ **can** *esp. AmE*— *v* **-nn-** [T] to preserve (esp. food) by packing it in tins: *tinned fruit|meat*

tinc·ture /ˈtɪŋktʃəʳ/ *n* [C;U (**of**)] *tech* a medical substance mixed with alcohol: *tincture of iodine*

tin·der /ˈtɪndəʳ/ *n* [U] material that burns easily, used esp. for lighting fires: *The plants are as dry as tinder|are* **tinder-dry** *after the long hot summer.*

tin·der·box /ˈtɪndəbɒks‖-dərbɑːks/ *n* **1** a box containing tinder, a FLINT, and steel, used in former times instead of matches for providing a flame **2** a very dangerous uncontrollable place or situation: *Racial tension was high, and the southern states were a real tinderbox.*

tine /taɪn/ *n tech* a point or narrow pointed part of a fork, a deer's ANTLERS, etc.

tin ear /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [S] *AmE infml* a lack of ability to tell the difference between different musical notes: *He tries to play the piano but he's got a tin ear.*

tin·foil /ˈtɪnfɔɪl/ ‖ also **aluminum foil** *AmE*— *n* [U] a very thin bendable sheet of shiny metal, used as a protective wrapping, esp. for covering food before cooking it

ting /tɪŋ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) make a high clear ringing sound —**ting** *n* : *The glass went "ting" as I tapped it with my knife.*

ting·a·ling /ˌtɪŋəˈlɪŋ/ *n infml* a high clear ringing sound, esp. as made by a small bell

tinge[1] /tɪndʒ/ *v* [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] **1** to give a slight degree of a colour to (an object or colour): *black hair tinged with grey* **2** to give a slight degree of a quality to: *Her admiration for him was tinged with jealousy.*

tinge[2] *n* [S (**of**)] a slight degree (of a colour or quality): *There was a tinge of sadness in her voice.*

tin·gle /ˈtɪŋgəl/ *v* [I (**with**)] to feel a slight, not unpleasant, stinging sensation: *My cheeks tingled with the cold.* —**tingle** *n* [S] : *I felt a tingle of excitement.* —**gly** *adj*

tin god /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n infml derog* someone not very important who behaves, or is admired, as though they were more important than they really are

tin hat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n infml* a metal hat worn by modern soldiers for protection; HELMET

tin·ker[1] /ˈtɪŋkəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] a person who travels from place to place mending metal pots, pans, etc. **2** [S (**with**)] an act of tinkering **3** [C] *BrE infml* a disobedient or annoying young child **4 tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor** the first words of a children's RHYME which is said in order to find out what job one will have when one grows up or what the job of one's husband will be

tinker[2] *v* [I+*adv|prep*, esp. **with**] to work without a fixed plan or useful results, making small changes, esp. when trying to repair or improve something: *He's been tinkering with that engine for hours, but it still won't go. | She spent the afternoon tinkering about in the garden shed.| It's no use just tinkering with the problem; we've got to make some fundamental changes.*

Tin·ker·bell /ˈtɪŋkəbel ‖ -ər-/ a FAIRY (=an imaginary small person with wings) who helps Peter Pan in the story by J.M. Barrie. Tinkerbell talks to Peter Pan by making bell-like sounds. —see also PETER PAN and see colour picture on page 619

Tin·ker·toys /ˈtɪŋkətɔɪz ‖ -ər-/ *n* [P] *AmE tdmk* a children's toy consisting of wooden rods of different colours and lengths which are joined together with wheel-like wooden blocks to build models of buildings, cars, animals, etc.

tin·kle[1] /ˈtɪŋkəl/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) make light metallic sounds: *little tinkling bells | The drops of water tinkled into the metal fountain.* **2** *euph infml* to URINATE (used of or by children): *Do you need to tinkle, dear?*

tinkle[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a tinkling sound **2** *BrE infml* a telephone call: *I'll* **give you a tinkle** *tomorrow.* **3** *euph infml* an act of urinating (URINATE); used of or by children

Tin Man /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a character from the book and film *The Wizard of Oz*. He is made of metal and does not have a heart, but in the story goes to see the Wizard of Oz to ask him to give him a heart. —see colour picture on page 685

tin·ni·tus /ˈtɪnɪtəs/ *n* [U] *med* an illness in which one hears noises, such as ringing, that are not there

tin·ny /ˈtɪni/ *adj* **1** of, like, or containing tin **2** having a thin metallic sound: *a cheap stereo that gives a tinny sound* **3** *infml* (esp. of something metal) cheaply and badly made —**-niness** *n* [U]

tin o·pen·er /ˈ· ˌ···/ *BrE* ‖ **can opener** *esp. AmE*— *n* a tool for opening tins —see picture at KITCHEN

tin pan al·ley /ˌ· · ˈ··/ (*often caps.*) esp. formerly, writers, players, and producers of popular music

tin·plate /ˈtɪnpleɪt/ *n* [U] very thin sheets of iron or steel covered with tin

tin-pot /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *infml* worthless and unimportant, but perhaps thinking oneself to be important: *a tin-pot dictator*

tin·sel /ˈtɪnsəl/ *n* [U] **1** very thin sheets, lengths, or threads of shiny material used for decorations, esp. at Christmas **2** something showy that is really cheap or worthless: *the tinsel and glamour of Hollywood* —~**ly** *adj*

Tin·sel·town /ˈtɪnsəltaʊn/ *infml, humor* HOLLYWOOD

tin shears /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [P] *AmE for* SNIPS

tint[1] /tɪnt/ *n esp. lit or tech* a pale or delicate shade of a colour; slight degree of a colour: *The painting glowed with beautiful autumn tints. | She has had red tints put in her hair.*

tint[2] *v* [T] to give a slight or delicate colour to: *a sports car with tinted glass in all the windows | She has had her hair tinted (blue).*

tin·tack /ˈtɪntæk/ *n* a short nail made of iron covered with tin

Tin·ta·gel /tɪnˈtædʒəl/ a ruined castle on the N coast of Cornwall. According to old stories, King Arthur held his court there.

Tin·tin /ˈtɪntɪn/ the main character in the *Tintin* picture stories by G R Hergé. Tintin is a young man with a dog called Snowy. The stories have been very popular since the 1920s, and some of them were made into CARTOON films.

Tintin



tin·tin·nab·u·la·tion /ˌtɪntɪˌnæbjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *tech or pomp* the sound or ringing of bells

Tin·to·ret·to /ˌtɪntəˈretəʊ/ (1518–94) an Italian artist born in Venice, best known for his religious paintings

tin·type /ˈtɪntaɪp/ *n* a photograph made by an old process which used tin instead of paper as a substance on which to develop the picture

ti·ny /ˈtaɪni/ *adj* extremely small: *a tiny baby|room|profit*

tip[1] /tɪp/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** the usu. pointed end of something: *Using the tip of the brush, paint in some very fine lines. | a town at the southern tip of India* | (fig.) *He's an artist* **to the tips of his fingers.** (=completely) —see also FINGERTIP **2** a small piece or part acting as an end, cap, or point: *the tip of a billiard cue* —see also FILTER TIP **3 on the tip of one's tongue** not quite able to be remembered: *Now what's her name? It's on the tip of my tongue.* **4 the tip of the iceberg** a small sign of a much larger situation, problem, etc.: *The official statistics on drug addiction are only the tip of the iceberg; the real figure may well be much higher.*

tip[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to supply a TIP[1] to (something): *tipped cigarettes* **2** [(**with**)] to cover the end or point of: *The arrows had been tipped with poison.*

tip[3] *v* **-pp-** **1** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] *esp. BrE* to pour (a substance) from one container into another, onto a surface, etc.: *I weighed the flour and tipped it into the bowl. | The truck tipped a load of sand onto the road.* **2** [I;T (OVER, UP)] to (cause to) fall over unintentionally: *Who knocked the bottle over? It couldn't have tipped over by itself.* **3** [I;T] to (cause to) lean at an angle: *The children tipped the table and the glasses fell off.* **4 tip the balance/scales** to influence the result of an event in one particular way when several results are possible: *Your support tipped the balance in our favour. | The American declaration of war in 1917 tipped the scales against Germany.* **5 tip the scales at** *infml* to weigh (the stated weight)

tip[4] *n* **1** *esp. BrE* ‖ **dump** *esp. AmE*— a large place where

unwanted waste is taken and left: *a rubbish tip* **2** *BrE infml* an extremely untidy and dirty place: *Your room's a real tip; when are you going to clean it out?*

tip[5] *n* a small amount of money given as a gift, usu. in addition to the official price, for a small service performed: *Shall I leave a tip for the waiter?* | *a tip of 10%*

tip[6] *v* **-pp-** [I;T] to give a TIP[5] to: *Did you remember to tip the driver?* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I tipped the hairdresser £1 for doing such a good job.* —**tipper** *n* : *She's not a very good tipper.* (=does not give large tips)

tip[7] *n* [(**on**)] a helpful piece of advice: *The manual is full of useful tips.* | **Take my tip** *and keep well away from that place.*

tip[8] *v* **-pp-** [T (**as, for**)] to mention or regard as one who is likely to do something: *Smith is being widely tipped as* (=most people expect Smith will be) *the next chairman.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Which horse are you tipping to win the next race?*

tip sbdy. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to give a warning or a piece of secret information to: *Thanks for tipping me off about those shares; I made a tidy profit out of them.* [+*obj*+*that*] *The police were tipped off that a bank robbery was being planned.*

ti·pi /ˈtiːpiː/ *n* TEPEE

tip-off /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a warning or piece of secret information: *The police received a tip-off about the robber's plans.*

Tip·pe·ca·noe /ˌtɪpɨkəˈnuː/ a battle won by US soldiers led by William Henry Harrison over Native Americans in Indiana. After the battle Harrison was often called "Tippecanoe".

Tip·pe·ra·ry /ˌtɪpəˈreəri/ a town and COUNTY in the S Republic of Ireland. There is a well-known song from the First World War called *Its a Long Way to Tipperary.*

Tip·pett /ˈtɪpɨt/, **Sir Mi·chael** /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1905–) an English COMPOSER of music for voices and instruments, also known for his OPERAS. His works include *A Child of Our Time.*

Tipp-Ex /ˈtɪpeks/ *BrE* ‖ **Liquid Paper** *tdmk*, **white out** *AmE*– *n* [U] *tdmk* a (usu. white) liquid used to paint out mistakes in writing, typing, etc.; often wrongly spelled **Tippex**

Tip·pex /ˈtɪpeks/ *BrE* ‖ **white (out)** *AmE*– *v* [T(**out**)] to paint out a mistake in writing, typing, etc. using Tipp-Ex® or a similar product

tip·ple /ˈtɪpəl/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* an alcoholic drink: *What's your favourite tipple?*

tip·pler /ˈtɪplərˠ/ *n infml or euph* someone who drinks (too much) alcohol habitually

tip·ster /ˈtɪpstərˠ/ *n* a person who gives information and advice about the likely winners of horse and dog races, esp. in return for money or as in a job

tip·sy /ˈtɪpsi/ *adj infml* slightly drunk —**-sily** *adv* —**-siness** *n* [U]

tip·toe[1] /ˈtɪptəʊ/ *n* **on tiptoe** on one's toes with the rest of the feet raised above the ground: *He stood on tiptoe and tried to see over the wall.*

tiptoe[2] *v* [I] to walk on tiptoe: *She tiptoed quietly out of the room so as not to wake him up.*

tip-top /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj infml* of the highest quality; excellent: *in tip-top condition*

ti·rade /taɪˈreɪd, tɨˈ-‖ˈtaɪreɪd, tɨˈreɪd/ *n* a long very angry disapproving speech; DIATRIBE: *He delivered a tirade against drug dealers.*

tire[1] /taɪəˠ/ *v* [I (**of**);T] to (cause to) become tired: *After walking for two hours I began to tire.* | *Jean never tires of talking about her work.* | *a very tiring day looking after the children*

tire sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to cause to become completely tired; EXHAUST: *The children have really tired me out.* | *I'm* **tired out;** *I think I'll go to bed.*

tire[2] *n AmE for* TYRE —see pictures at BICYCLE and at CAR

tired /taɪəd‖taɪərd/ *adj* **1** feeling weak and lacking power in the body or mind, esp. as a result of long activity; needing rest or sleep: *I'm so tired I could sleep for a week.* | *resting their tired legs after a long walk* **2** [F (**of**)] having lost interest or patience: *I'm tired of watching television; let's go for a walk.* | *I'm tired of your lame excuses.* **3** *derog* showing lack of imagination or new ideas: *The same tired old subjects come up year after year.* **4 tired and emotional** *BrE humor euph* drunk —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

tire·less /ˈtaɪələs‖ˈtaɪər-/ *adj apprec* never or rarely getting tired: *a tireless fighter against injustice* —**~ly** *adv*

Ti·re·si·as /taɪˈriːsiæs/ in ancient Greek and Roman stories, the blind PROPHET who told of the crimes of Oedipus

tire·some /ˈtaɪəsəm‖ˈtaɪər-/ *adj pomp or fml* causing annoyance or impatience: *Do as you're told, you tiresome child.* | *I've missed the train; how tiresome!* | *tiresome repetitions* —**~ly** *adv*

ti·ro /ˈtaɪərəʊ/ *n* a TYRO

Ti·rol, Tyrol /tɪˈrəʊl/ a mountainous area in Austria, popular with tourists and having many places to SKI

'tis /tɪz/ *Lit* it is

tis·sue /ˈtɪʃuː, -sjuː‖-ʃuː/ *n* **1** [U] (the material formed by) animal or plant cells, esp. those that are similar in form and purpose and make up the stated organ: *lung tissue* | *leaf tissue* **2** [U] also **tissue pa·per** /ˈ·· ˌ··/– light thin paper used for wrapping, packing, etc. **3** [C] also **Kleenex** *tdmk*– a piece of soft paper, esp. used for blowing the nose on; paper handkerchief: *a box of tissues* **4** [C (**of**)] *fml* something formed as if by weaving threads together; network: *Her story was a* **tissue of lies.** (=completely untrue)

tit[1] /tɪt/ *n infml, not polite* **1** also **titty**– **a** a woman's breast **b** a NIPPLE **2** *BrE* a stupid worthless person **3 get on someone's tits** *BrE* to annoy someone greatly

tit[2] also **titmouse** *fml*– *n* a small European bird

ti·tan /ˈtaɪtn/ *n esp. lit* (*sometimes cap.*) a person of great strength, importance, size, cleverness, etc.: *Douglas Fairbanks Sr., a titan of the screen* | *The debate is being seen as a clash of the political Titans.* —see also TITANS

Ti·ta·ni·a /tɪˈtɑːniə‖-ˈteɪ-/ the queen of the fairies (FAIRY(1)) and wife of Oberon in Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

ti·tan·ic /taɪˈtænɪk/ *adj* of great size, strength, power, importance, etc.: *a titanic struggle*

Titanic [*the*] a British passenger ship, thought of as impossible to sink, which on her first trip in 1912 hit an ICEBERG and sank, causing over 1500 deaths

ti·ta·ni·um /taɪˈteɪniəm/ *n* [U] a silvery grey light strong metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), used esp. for making compounds with other metals

Ti·tans /ˈtaɪtnz/ [*the*] in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the gods who ruled the universe until Zeus became the most powerful god

tit·bit /ˈtɪtˌbɪt/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **tidbit** *AmE*– *n* **1** a small piece of particularly nice food **2** [(**of**)] *infml* a small but interesting piece: *a few titbits of gossip*

titch·y /ˈtɪtʃi/ *adj BrE infml, often derog* extremely small

tit·fer /ˈtɪtfəˠ/ *n BrE old-fash sl* a hat

tit for tat /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] *infml* something unpleasant done in return for something unpleasant one has suffered: *I didn't invite her to my party because she didn't invite me to hers. It was just tit for tat.*

tithe /taɪð/ *n* a tax of one tenth of one's yearly profit or income paid, esp. in former times, for the support of the priest of the local church

Ti·tian /ˈtɪʃən/ (1490–1576) an Italian painter from Venice, greatly admired for his use of striking colours

Tit·i·ca·ca /ˌtɪtɪˈkɑːkə/ the largest fresh water lake in S America, and the highest in the world, in the Andes mountains

tit·il·late /ˈtɪtɨleɪt/ *v* [T] to excite pleasantly, esp. sexually —**-lation** /ˌtɪtɨˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

tit·i·vate, titti- /ˈtɪtɨveɪt/ *v* [I;T] *infml, often humor* to make (esp. oneself) pretty or tidy

ti·tle /ˈtaɪtl/ *n* **1** [C] **a** a name given to a book, painting, play, etc.: *The title of this play is "Othello".* **b** a particular book: *This novel was one of last year's best-selling titles.* **2** [C] a word or name, such as "Mr", "Lord", "Lady", "Doctor", "General", etc., given to someone to be used before their name as a sign of rank, profession, etc. **3** [S;U (**to**)] *tech* the legal right to ownership or possession: *Has he any title to this land?* **4** [C] the position of unbeaten winner in certain sports competitions; CHAMPIONSHIP (2): *They're fighting for the world title tonight.* | *a title fight* —see also ENTITLE, SUBTITLES

ti·tled /ˈtaɪtld/ *adj* having a noble title, such as "Lord"

title deed /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a piece of paper giving legal proof of a person's right of ownership of property

ti·tle·hold·er /ˈtaɪtlˌhəʊldəʳ/ *n* **1** a person or team who is at present the unbeaten winner of a sports competition **2** the holder of a title deed

title page /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the page at the front of a book giving the title, writer's name, etc.

title role /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the chief part in a play, after which the play is named: *He played the title role in "Hamlet".* (=he played the part of Hamlet)

tit·mouse /ˈtɪtmaʊs/ *n* **-mice** /maɪs/ *fml for* TIT²

Ti·to /ˈtiːtəʊ/, **Marshal** (1892–1980) a PRIME MINISTER and president (1953–80) of Yugoslavia who kept his country apart from the influence of the USSR

tit·ter /ˈtɪtəʳ/ *v* [I] *often derog* to laugh quietly in a nervous or silly way –see LAUGH (USAGE) –**titter** *n* : *She gave a nervous titter.*

tit·tle /ˈtɪtl/ *n* [S *usu. in questions and negatives*] *old-fash infml BrE* a very small amount; bit: *There is* **not one jot or tittle** *of truth in these allegations.* (=no truth at all)

tittle-tat·tle /ˈtɪtl ˌtætl/ *n* [U] *infml, usu. derog* talk about other people's lives, activities, etc.; GOSSIP –**tittle-tattle** *v* [I]

tit·ty /ˈtɪti/ *n infml* a TIT¹ (1)

tit·u·lar /ˈtɪtʃʊləʳ/ *adj* holding a title but not having the duties, responsibilities, or power of office: *He is the titular head of government, but his chief minister holds all the real power.*

Ti·tus Groan /ˌtaɪtəs ˈgrəʊn/ a book written in 1946 by Mervyn Peake. It is a Gothic FANTASY about the life of Titus, 77th EARL of Groan, in his castle, Gormenghast.

tiz·zy /ˈtɪzi/ also **tizz** /tɪz/ *esp. BrE– n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a state of excited worried confusion: *Don't get in a tizzy.*

T-junc·tion /ˈtiː ˌdʒʌŋkʃən/ *n BrE* a place where two roads, pipes, etc., join and form the shape of a letter T

TKO /ˌtiː keɪ ˈəʊ/ *abbrev. for* TECHNICAL KNOCK-OUT

TLC /ˌtiː el ˈsiː/ *infml* tender loving care; kindness and caring towards a loved one: *A little TLC and he'll soon be on his feet again.*

Tlin·git /ˈtlɪŋgɪt/ *n* (a member of) a group of Native Americans who live in Alaska, many of whom earn their livings by TRADITIONAL methods of fishing and weaving – see also NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

TM /ˌtiː ˈem/ *abbrev. for:* TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

TN *written abbrev for:* TENNESSEE

TNT /ˌtiː en ˈtiː/ *n* [U] trinitrotoluene; a powerful explosive

to¹ /tə; *before vowels* tʊ; *strong* tuː/ *prep* **1 a** in a direction towards: *the road to London | She stood up and walked to the window. | a journey to China | She threw the ball to me.* (=for me to catch. Compare *She threw the stone at me.*=to hurt me) **b** in a direction continuing from: *The town lies (about 20 miles) to the north of New York.* **2** so as to be in: *We're hoping to go to London for our holidays this year. | The robber was sent to prison for five years.* **3** reaching as far as: *The water came (right up) to our necks.* **4** so as to be (in a state of): *She sang the baby to sleep. | The mob stoned her to death. | Wait until the lights change to green. | After two difficult years the company is now on the road to recovery.* **5** in a touching position with: *The two lovers danced cheek to cheek. | The paper stuck firmly to the wall.* **6** facing or in front of: *They stood face to face|back to back. | I sat with my back to the engine.* **7** until and including: *Count (from 10) to 20. | I read the book from beginning to end. | They stayed from Friday night to|until Sunday morning. | It's 10 miles (from here) to London. | a nine-to-five job | I'm soaked to the skin.| They were killed* **to a man/to the last man.** (=they were all killed) –see INCLUSIVE (USAGE) **8** for the attention or possession of: *Have you told all your news to John? | I want a present to give to my wife. | This is a letter to Mildred from George. | You have no right to this land.| Will they give you an office to yourself?* (=for your own use, not shared with anyone else) **9** in connection with: *What's your answer to that? | She's always kind to animals. | a danger to one's health | What have you done to the radio? It's not working. | There's always an element of risk to starting up a new business.* **10** for; of: *Have you got the key to this lock? | He got a job as secretary to a doctor.* **11** in relation with; in comparison with: *I know he's successful but he's nothing to what he could have been.| England beat Scotland by two goals to one.* **12** as far as concerns: *That sounds rather suspicious to me. | It costs £10, and to some people that's a lot of money. | She has not,* **to my knowledge** (=as far as I know), *written any books since that one.* **13** (with words about addition) as well as; and: *Add two to four.* (compare *Subtract two from four.*) | *In addition to John, there are the girls.* **14** forming; making up: *There are 100 pence to every pound.| There are 11 francs to the pound.* **15** in accordance with: *Your dress isn't really to my liking. | You will hear of something to your advantage.* **16** so as to cause (esp. a feeling): *He broke it, (greatly) to my annoyance. | To my great surprise, we won!* **17** (of time) before: *"It's five (minutes) to four." "No, it's only ten to four." | How long is it to dinner? | only two weeks to Christmas* **18** per: *This car does 30 miles to the gallon.* **19** in honour of: *Let's drink to the health of our respected foreign guests. | a monument to the war dead* **20 (a number) to (a number): a** between (a number) and (a number): *He drowned in 10 to 12 feet of water. | She's 40 to 45.* **b** compared with: *It's 100 to 1 he'll lose,* (=100 times as likely)

▷ USAGE Compare **to** and **till/until** in expressions of time. **To** is used **a** when speaking of the clock: *It's five* **to** *four,* **b** when a time is moved forward: *They've brought the date of the meeting forward* **to** *Wednesday* (but *They've postponed the meeting* **till** *Wednesday),* **c** in certain expressions like **to** *the last,* **to** *this day,* **to** *date.* **To** or **till/until** can be used **a** in considering the length of time before an event: *It's an hour* **to/till** *dinner,* **b** with **from:** *We stayed* **from** *June* **to/till** *September.* –see also INCLUSIVE (USAGE). Otherwise use **till/until:** *We stayed* **until** *seven. I didn't see him* **till** *last week.* –see also O'CLOCK (USAGE), TIME (USAGE)◁

to² /tuː/ *adv* **1** into a shut position: *The wind blew the door to.* **2** into consciousness: *John didn't come to for half an hour after he'd fallen and hit his head.* –see also TO-AND-FRO, **close to** (CLOSE³)

to³ /tə; *before vowels* tʊ; *strong* tuː/ (used before a verb to show it is the INFINITIVE, but not before **can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, must,** or **ought**; it is left out after verbs that have the patterns [+*to-v*] or [+*obj*+*to-v*]; the verb that should follow **to** is sometimes left out if it can be understood. Note the following patterns: **a** (after verbs): [I+*to-v*] *He lived to be 90. | I used to live in New York.* [T+*to-v*] *He wants to leave. | He can leave if he wants to.* [T +*obj*+*to-v*] *They allowed us to go.* (compare [+*obj*+*to-v*] *They let us go.* | (with reported commands) *He told them to shoot.* (=He said "Shoot!") | *He told them (not) to.* **b** (after **how, where, who, whom, whose, which, when, what,** or **whether):** [T+*wh-*] *I know where to go but I don't know how to get there. | She wondered whether or not to go|wondered whether to or not.* [T+*obj*+*wh-*] *Would you tell me when to leave?* **c** (after nouns): [C+*to-v*] *an attem pt to land* [P+*to-v*] *the qualifications to drive* [U+*to-v*] *some reason to leave* **d** (after adjectives): [+*to-v*] *an easy thing to do* [F+*to-v*] *I'm glad|sorry|happy to say...* **e** (when speaking about the verb, as in grammar): *"To find" takes a direct object. | To wear boots would be safest. | It would be safest to wear boots. | What they really should have done was to accept.* **f** (used to show purpose) in order to: *They left early to catch the train. | I want some scissors to cut my nails (with).* **g** in the pattern **too**+*adj*+*to-v*: *It's too cold to go out.* **h** (in the pattern *adj*+**enough**+*to-v*): *It's cold enough to snow.* **i** (in the pattern *to-v* at the beginning of a statement): *To be honest* (=speaking honestly), *I don't know anything about it. | To put it another way, do you like him?| To begin with, let's...* **j** (in the pattern **There is**+*n*+*to-v*): *There were plenty of things to eat. | There's also the cost to consider.* (=we must consider it)

▷ USAGE It is often considered bad English to put any other word between **to** and the verb that follows it, making a "split infinitive": *He was wrong* **to** *suddenly say that.* But sometimes there is nowhere else to put the word: *Your job is* **to** *really understand these children. | He likes* **to** *half close his eyes.*◁

toad /təʊd/ *n* an animal like a large FROG, that usu. lives on land, but goes into water for breeding

Toad also **Toad of Toad Hall** /ˌ·· ˌ· ˈ·/– one of the main characters in the children's story *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

toad-in-the-hole /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* [U] a British dish of SAUSAGES baked in BATTER (=a mixture of eggs, milk, and flour)

toad·stool /ˈtəʊdstuːl/ *n* a usu. poisonous or uneatable type of FUNGUS

toad·y[1] /ˈtəʊdi/ *n derog* someone who is too nice to people of higher rank, esp. for personal advantage; SYCOPHANT

toady[2] *v* [I (**to**)] *derog* to be too nice to someone of higher rank, esp. for personal advantage: *Johnson's promotion is the result of toadying to the boss.*

to-and-fro[1] /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *adj* (of a repeated journey or movement) forwards and backwards or from one side to the other: *a to-and-fro movement* —**to and fro** *adv* : *The teacher walked to and fro in front of the class as he spoke.* | *The pendulum swung to and fro.*

to-and-fro[2] *n* [(*the*) S (**of**)] *infml* activity in which people or things move from place to place, pass in opposite directions, etc.: *the busy to-and-fro of passengers in the airport* —see also TO-ING AND FRO-ING

toast[1] /təʊst/ *n* **1** [U] bread made brown by being placed close to heat, usu. eaten hot with butter: *I like toast for breakfast.* | *a slice of toast* **2** [C (**to**)] an act of drinking esp. wine in a ceremonial way in order to show respect or admiration for someone or something or to express good wishes to someone: *Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to* **propose a toast** *to the bride and groom.* | *They* **drank a toast** *to the Queen.* **3** [*the*+S] the person or thing in whose honour this is done **4** [*the*+S+**of**] someone or something extremely popular in the stated place or with the stated people: *After the success of her show she was the toast of Broadway|of singers everywhere*

toast[2] *v* [T] **1** to make (bread, cheese, etc.) brown by placing it close to heat —see COOK (USAGE) **2** *infml* to warm thoroughly: *He was toasting his feet by the fire.* **3** to drink a TOAST[1] (2) to

toast·er /ˈtəʊstəʳ/ *n* an electrical apparatus for making TOAST[1] (1) —see picture at KITCHEN

toast·ie /ˈtəʊsti/ *n* a toasted SANDWICH: *a cheese and ham toastie*

toasting fork /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a long-handled fork for holding bread in front of an open fire to make TOAST[1] (1)

toast·mas·ter /ˈtəʊstˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæ-/ *n* a person who says what the TOASTS[1] (2) are and introduces speakers at a formal dinner

toast·y /ˈtəʊsti/ *adj AmE infml* warm, dry, and comfortable: *The bed felt toasty and I didn't want to get up.*

to·bac·co /təˈbækəʊ/ *n* **-cos** **1** [U] the dried leaves of a type of plant as prepared for smoking in cigarettes, pipes, etc., or for chewing (CHEW) or SNUFF: *a report on the harmful effects of tobacco* | *pipe tobacco* **2** [C] a particular type of tobacco: *a mild|strong tobacco*

to·bac·co·nist /təˈbækənɨst/ *n* a person in charge of a shop that sells tobacco, cigarettes, etc.

to·bog·gan /təˈbɒgən‖-ˈbɑː-/ *n* a light frame or board, sometimes on metal blades, used for sliding over snow, esp. down slopes for sport; SLEDGE[1] (2) —**toboggan** *v* [I] : *The children love to* **go tobogganing** *when it snows.*

to·by jug /ˈtəʊbi dʒʌg/ *n* (in Britain) a small container for drinking from, in the form of a fat old man wearing a three-cornered hat. People sometimes collect toby jugs because some are worth a lot of money.

toc·ca·ta /təˈkɑːtə/ *n* a piece of music, esp. for the ORGAN, piano, or similar instrument, in a free style with difficult passages that show the player's skill

Tocque·ville /ˈtɒkvɪl‖ˈtəʊk-/, **A·lex·is de** /əˈleksɨs də/ (1805–59) a French writer and politician who travelled in the US and then wrote a book called *Democracy in America* which examined the strengths and weaknesses of the American system of government

toc·sin /ˈtɒksɨn‖ˈtɑːk-/ *n esp. lit* (a bell rung as) a warning signal

tod /tɒd‖tɑːd/ *n* **on one's tod** *BrE infml* alone; by oneself

to·day[1] /təˈdeɪ/ *adv* **1** during or on the present day: *Are we going shopping today?* | *He was released from prison early today.* | (*BrE*) *I'm starting my new job a week today|today week.* (=a week from today) **2** during or at the present time; NOWADAYS: *We export more cars today than we've ever done before.* | *Young people today have no manners.* **3 here today and gone tomorrow** present or fashionable for only a very short time: *another of those pop singers who are here today and gone tomorrow*

today[2] *n* [U] **1** this present day: *Today's my birthday!* | *Have you seen today's paper?* **2** this present time, period, etc.: *The computers of today|today's computers are far more powerful than those of five years ago.*

Today a popular national daily newspaper in Britain. It is a TABLOID

Todd /tɒd‖tɑːd/, **Sweeney** see SWEENEY TODD

tod·dle /ˈtɒdl‖ˈtɑːdl/ *v* [I] **1** to walk with short unsteady steps, as a small child does **2** [+*adv/prep*] *infml* to walk; go: *I'm just toddling over to Mary's. Why don't you come?*

tod·dler /ˈtɒdləʳ‖ˈtɑːd-/ *n* a small child who has just learnt to walk —see CHILD (USAGE)

tod·dy /ˈtɒdi‖ˈtɑːdi/ *n* [C;U] a sweetened mixture of WHISKY and hot water: *A* **hot toddy** *is just the thing for your cold.*

to-do /tə ˈduː/ *n* **to-dos** *infml* **1** [*usu. sing.*] a state of excited confusion or annoyance; FUSS: *What a to-do about nothing!* **2** *AmE rare for* DO[3] (1)

toe[1] /təʊ/ *n* **1** any of the five small movable parts at the end of each foot —see picture at FOOT **2** the part of a sock, shoe, etc., that covers the toes: *sandals with open toes* —see picture at SHOE **3 on one's toes** watchful and ready for action; ALERT —compare FINGER; see also **from top to toe** (TOP[1]), **tread on someone's toes** (TREAD[1])

toe[2] *v* **toe the line** to obey orders or rules; act in accordance with what is usual or expected

toe cap /ˈ· ·/ *n* a strong covering over the toe of a shoe or boot

toe·hold /ˈtəʊhəʊld/ *n* a very small place on a rock, etc. just big enough to take part of the foot and thus give support to a climber

toe·nail /ˈtəʊneɪl/ *n* the nail on the upper end of a toe —see picture at FOOT

toff /tɒf‖tɑːf/ *n old-fash infml, esp. BrE* a rich and/or well-dressed person of high social class

tof·fee , toffy /ˈtɒfi‖ˈtɑːfi/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a piece of) a hard sticky sweet brown substance made by boiling sugar and butter with water **2 for toffee** also **for nuts**– *BrE infml* (esp. after **can't**) at all: *He can't sing for toffee!*

toffee ap·ple /ˈ·· ˌ··/ ‖ also **candy apple, taffy apple** *AmE*– *n* an apple covered with toffee, held on a small stick. Toffee apples are usu. bought by children, esp. at the SEASIDE, at FAIRS, or at Halloween.

toffee-nosed /ˈ·· ·/ *adj BrE infml* thinking oneself important because of one's social position; SNOBBISH

to·fu /ˈtəʊfuː/ *n* [U] a soft, cheeselike food much used in Japanese, VEGETARIAN etc. cooking, which is made from the milk of the SOYA BEAN

tog /tɒg‖tɑːg, tɔːg/ *v* **-gg-**
tog sbdy. **up/out** *phr v* [T (**in**)] *infml* to dress (esp. oneself) in specially fine or formal clothes —see also TOGS

to·ga /ˈtəʊgə/ *n* a long loose flowing outer garment worn by the citizens of ancient Rome

to·geth·er[1] /təˈgeðəʳ/ *adv* **1** so as to form a single group, body, or object; so as to be joined: *Tie these two pieces of string together.* | *Add these numbers together.* | *It's broken, but I can stick it together (again) with glue.* | *We hope these new proposals will bring the two sides in the dispute together.* (=into a state of agreement) | *Your argument does not hold together well.* **2** in or into one place: *People came together from all over the country to attend his funeral.* **3** with each other: *We went to the dance together, but got separated soon after we arrived.* | *Charles and I were at school together.* (=we went to the same school) | *The strings and the brass weren't quite together* (=did not play their notes exactly with each other) *in that passage.* | *She and her ex-husband are getting back together.* —see also GO **together,** LIVE **together,** SLEEP **together** **4** to each other: *His eyes are too* **close together.** **5** at the same time: *Why do all the bills always come together?* **6** considered as a whole: *Taken together, these measures should create a lot of new jobs.* —see also PUT **together** **7** working or acting in united agreement; combined: *We stand together in our determination to defend our rights.* **8** *old-fash* without interruption: *It rained for four days together.* **9 together with** as well as; in addition to: *He sent her some roses, together with a nice letter.* —see also ALTOGETHER

together[2] *adj infml apprec* **1** very much in control of

one's life, feelings, etc.; very well organized (ORGANIZE): *I admire Jane; she's a really together person.* **2 get it together** to have things under control

to·geth·er·ness /tə'geðənəs‖-ðər-/ *n* [U] a feeling of being united with other people in a friendly relationship

tog·gle /'tɒgəl‖'tɑ:-/ *n* a short shaped bar of wood used as a button —see picture at FASTENER

To·go /'təʊgəʊ/ a country in W Africa bordered by the Gulf of Guinea, Ghana, and Benin; capital Lomé; population 3,349,000 (1989) —**Togolese** /ˌtəʊgə'li:z◂/ *n, adj*

togs /tɒgz‖tɑ:gz, tɔ:gz/ *n* [P] *infml* clothes, esp. for a particular activity

toil[1] /tɔɪl/ *n* [U] *esp. fml or lit* **1** hard or continuous work —see also TOILS; see WORK (USAGE) **2 Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble.** *quote* a rhyme used by the three witches (WITCH) in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth* —see colour picture on page 1146

toil[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *esp. fml or lit* **1** to work for a long time and with great effort **2** to move slowly with great effort or pain: *The slaves toiled up the hill pulling the heavy blocks.*

toi·let /'tɔɪlət/ *n* **1** [C] an apparatus, usu. a seatlike bowl, fixed to the floor and connected to a pipe (DRAIN), used for getting rid of the body's waste matter **2** [C] *esp. BrE* a room containing a toilet —see USAGE **3** [U] *old-fash fml* the act of washing and dressing oneself: *Madam does not wish to be interrupted while she is at her toilet.*

▷ USAGE In British English **toilet** is a generally acceptable, but **lavatory** and **WC** (becoming old-fashioned except when talking about the plans of houses) are also used. **Loo** is a fairly common informal word. **Public conveniences** is the formal expression for specially built buildings containing toilets used by the public, and these are often called **the gents** (for men's toilets) and **the ladies** (for women's toilets). In American English **bathroom, restroom,** and **washroom** are commonly used for **toilet,** and **john** is a common informal word. Public toilets are usu. called the **men's room** and the **women's room**: *Excuse me. Can you tell me where the* **toilet**/*the* **loo**/**the gents**/**the ladies**/*the* **bathroom** (*AmE*)/*the* **restroom** (*AmE*) *is?*◁

toilet bag /'·· ·/ *n* a bag for holding toiletries

toilet pa·per /'·· ˌ··/ also **toilet tissue, lavatory paper**— *n* [U] thin paper, in a continuous length or single pieces, for cleaning oneself after passing waste matter from the body

toi·let·ries /'tɔɪləˌtriz/ *n* [P] articles or substances used in washing, making oneself tidy, etc.: *toothpaste, shaving foam, cologne, and other men's toiletries*

toilet roll /'·· ·/ *n esp. BrE* a rolled-up continuous length of TOILET PAPER

toilet-trained /'·· ·/ *adj* POTTY-TRAINED

toilet train·ing /'·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the teaching of a young child when and how to use the toilet

toilet wa·ter /'·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a pleasant-smelling but not very strong PERFUME[1] (2)

toils /tɔɪlz/ *n* [P] *esp. lit* something in which one becomes firmly trapped

to-ing and fro-ing /ˌtu:ɪŋ ən 'frəʊɪŋ/ also **to-ings and fro-ings** *pl.*— *n* [U] *infml* busy unproductive activity: *After a lot of to-ing and fro-ing they reached a decision.*

To·kay /təʊ'keɪ/ a sweet, heavy wine made in Tokay in Hungary

to·ken[1] /'təʊkən/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] an outward sign; something that represents a fact, event, feeling, etc.: *All the family wore black as a token of their grief.* | *Please accept this small gift as* **a token of our gratitude.** | *They waved a white flag* **in token of** (=to show) *surrender.* **2** [(**of**)] something that acts as a reminder; KEEPSAKE; SOUVENIR: *My husband gave me a ring as a token of our first meeting.* **3** *BrE* ‖ **gift certificate** *AmE*— a sort of special ticket, usu. fixed to a greetings card, which one can exchange for the stated thing in a shop: *a £10 record token* | *a book token* | *a gift token* (=that one can exchange for anything in a particular shop) **4** a piece of metal used instead of coins for a particular purpose —see also **by the same token** (SAME[1])

token[2] *adj* [A] **1** done or given as a small sign representing something greater: *a token payment* **2** *usu. derog* done or given so as to seem acceptable: *They made a token effort.* | *a token gesture of support* | *It seemed to us she'd been invited onto the committee as the token woman.*

to·ken·ism /'təʊkənɪzəm/ *n* [U] *derog* the practice of giving official favour to representatives of special groups in society only to produce an appearance of fairness

To Kill a Mock·ing·bird /· ˌ· · '···/ an American NOVEL by Harper Lee, which was later made into a film. The story takes place in Alabama during the Depression and concerns children learning about racial PREJUDICE.

To·ky·o /'təʊkiəʊ/ the capital and largest city of Japan, and its main financial,business and ADMINISTRATIVE centre; population 8,348,000 (1987). Tokyo is one of the largest and busiest cities in the world.

told /təʊld/ *past tense & participle of* TELL

tol·e·ra·ble /'tɒlərəbəl‖'tɑ:-/ *adj* fairly good or acceptable; that can be tolerated —see also INTOLERABLE

tol·e·ra·bly /'tɒlərəbli‖'tɑ:-/ *adv fml or pomp* to a limited degree; fairly: *I feel tolerably well today.*

tol·e·rance /'tɒlərəns‖'tɑ:-/ *n* **1** [U (**for, of, towards**)] also **toleration**— *apprec* willingness to accept or allow behaviour, beliefs, customs, etc., which one does not like or agree with, without opposition: *Try and show some tolerance.* | *a country with a reputation for tolerance towards religious minorities* | *the government's tolerance of political dissent* **2** [C;U (**of, to**)] the ability to suffer pain, hardship, etc., without being harmed or damaged: *Many old people have a very limited tolerance to cold.* **3** [C;U] *tech* the amount by which the measure of a value can vary from the amount intended, without causing difficulties: *This machine part was built* **to a tolerance of** *0.01 millimetres.* (=if it is bigger or smaller by more than this amount it will not fit or work properly) **4** [C;U (**to, of**)] *tech* the degree to which a cell, animal, plant, etc., can successfully oppose the effect of a poison, drug, etc.

tol·e·rant /'tɒlərənt‖'tɑ:-/ *adj* [(**of, towards**)] showing or practising tolerance: *a tolerant father* —see also INTOLERANT — ~**ly** *adv*

tol·e·rate /'tɒləreɪt‖'tɑ:-/ *v* [T] **1** to allow (something one does not agree with) to be practised or done freely without opposition; permit **2** to suffer (someone or something) without complaining or becoming annoyed: *I won't tolerate your bad manners any longer.* | *He never could tolerate bores.* —see BEAR (USAGE)

tol·e·ra·tion /ˌtɒlə'reɪʃən‖ˌtɑ:-/ *n* [U] TOLERANCE (1), esp. of religious beliefs or practices that are different from those recognized by the state: *religious toleration*

to let /· '·/ *BrE*‖**for rent** *AmE*— *adj* (of a house, flat or other building) available to be rented: *a "To Let" sign*

Tol·kien /'tɒlki:n‖'tɑ:l-/, **J R R** (1892–1973) an English writer and university teacher best known for his FANTASY books *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*

toll[1] /təʊl/ *n* **1** a tax paid for the right to use a road, HARBOUR, etc. **2** [*usu. sing.*] the cost in health, life, etc., of an illness, an accident, etc.: *the usual heavy death toll on the roads at Christmas* | *Years of hardship and neglect had* **taken their toll** *(on his health).* (=harmed it)

toll[2] *v* **1** [I;T] **a** to ring (a bell) slowly and repeatedly **b** (of a bell) to be rung slowly and repeatedly **2** [T] (of a bell) to tell or make known by doing this: *The church bell tolled the hour.*

toll[3] *n* [(*the*) S] the sound of a tolling bell

toll·booth /'təʊlbu:θ/ *n* a place where TOLLS[1] (1) are or were collected

toll-free /ˌ· '·◂/ *adj AmE* (of a telephone call) paid for by the organization receiving it rather than the person making it —compare FREEFONE —**toll-free** *adv*

toll·gate /'təʊlgeɪt/ *n* a gate across a road at which a TOLL[1] (1) must be paid

toll·house cook·ie /ˌtəʊlhaʊs 'kʊki/ also **chocolate-chip cookie** *n AmE* a small, heavy cake (BISCUIT) which has small pieces of chocolate in it

toll road /'· ·/ *n* a road on which a TOLL[1] (1) must be paid

toll·way /'təʊlweɪ/ *n AmE* a MOTORWAY, often running a long distance, which the motorist must pay to use: *the Illinois Tollway* —see EXPRESSWAY (USAGE)

Tol·pud·dle Mar·tyrs /ˌtɒlpʌdl 'mɑ:təz‖ˌtɑ:lpʌdl 'mɑ:rtərz/ [*the*+P] a group of English farm workers at Tolpuddle in

Dorset who formed a TRADE UNION in 1833. They were put in prison and then sent to Australia as CONVICTS because of this, but later freed after great public protest.

Tol·stoy /ˈtɒlstɔɪ‖ˈtəʊl-/, **Count Leo** (1828–1910) a Russian writer best known for his long NOVELS *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*

tom·a·hawk /ˈtɒməhɔːk‖ˈtɑː-/ *n* a light AXE formerly used by Native Americans in war and hunting –see picture at AXE

Tom and Jer·ry /ˌtɒm ənd ˈdʒeri‖ˌtɑːm-/ a television CARTOON cat and mouse. Tom is always chasing Jerry, but Jerry is more clever than Tom and usu. finds ways of escaping.

to·ma·to /təˈmɑːtəʊ‖-ˈmeɪ-/ *n* **-toes** [C;U] a soft fleshy juicy red fruit eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable: *a pound of tomatoes | a tomato salad* –see picture at VEGETABLE

tomb /tuːm/ *n* a grave, esp. a large decorative one built to have a large space inside where the dead person is placed

Tomb of the Un·known Sol·dier /ˌ· · · ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] see UNKNOWN SOLDIER

tom·bo·la /tɒmˈbəʊlə‖tɑːm-/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* a game in which tickets are chosen by chance to win prizes

tom·boy /ˈtɒmbɔɪ‖ˈtɑːm-/ *n* a spirited young girl who enjoys rough and noisy activities – **~ish** *adj*

Tom Brown's School·days /ˌ· ˌ· ˈ··/ an 1857 book which described life in a 19th century English boy's private school. The book describes much bullying (BULLY) of younger boys by older boys. –see also FLASHMAN

tomb·stone /ˈtuːmstəʊn/ *n* a GRAVESTONE

Tombstone a city in Arizona in the US, SITE of the OK Corral, where one of the Wild West's most famous gun fights took place

tom·cat /ˈtɒmkæt‖ˈtɑːm-/ also **tom** /tɒm‖tɑːm/ *infml–* *n* a male cat –compare TABBY (2)

Tom Col·lins, tom collins /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n AmE* a drink made with alcohol, usu. GIN, the juice of a LEMON or LIME, and sugar

Tom, Dick, and Har·ry /ˌ· ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [S] *derog* anybody, no matter who he or she may be: *You don't think I'd tell any Tom, Dick and Harry, do you?*

tome /təʊm/ *n esp. lit or humor* a large heavy book

tom·fool·e·ry /tɒmˈfuːləri‖tɑːm-/ *n fml* **1** [U] foolish behaviour **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a foolish act

Tom Jones /ˌ· ˈ·/ the title of a NOVEL by Henry Fielding, concerning the (esp. sexual) adventures of an ORPHAN in his young adult years

Tom·lin /ˈtɒmlɪn‖ˈtɑːm-/, **Lily** (1939?–) an American actress and COMEDIENNE

Tom·my /ˈtɒmi‖ˈtɑː-/ *n infml, old-fash* a British soldier of the lowest rank

tom·my gun /ˈtɒmi gʌn‖ˈtɑː-/ *n infml* a light MACHINEGUN

tom·my·rot /ˈtɒmirɒt‖ˈtɑːmiraːt/ *n* [U] *old-fash.* complete nonsense

to·mor·row[1] /təˈmɒrəʊ‖-ˈmɔː-, -ˈmɑː-/ *adv* during or on the day following today: *I hope it will be sunny tomorrow. | I'll be back tomorrow night. | (BrE) I'm starting my new job a week tomorrow|tomorrow week.* (=a week from tomorrow)

tomorrow[2] *n* **1** [U] the day following today: *Tomorrow will be my birthday! | I'll see you at tomorrow's meeting.| Will it be ready in time for tomorrow?* –see DAY (USAGE) **2** [S;U] the future: *a brighter tomorrow | tomorrow's world|The computers of tomorrow will be even more powerful than the ones we use now.* **3 never put off till tomorrow what you can do today** *saying* necessary jobs should always be done immediately, for if they are left till later they may be forgotten and never get done **4 tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow** *quote* a well-known line from a speech by Macbeth in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*

Tom Sawyer see Tom SAWYER

Tom Thumb /ˌ· ˈ·/ a child in a fairy story who was only as big as a thumb: *rows of Tom Thumb-sized cars and lorries*

tom-tom /ˈ· ·/ *n* a long narrow drum usu. played by being beaten with the hands

ton /tʌn/ *n* **1** [C] (*pl.* **tons** *or* **ton**) a measure of weight – see TABLE 2 **2** [C (**of**)] also **tons** *pl.*– *infml* a very large quantity: *I bought tons of fruit while it was cheap.* **3** [S] *infml* a heavy weight: *This book* **weighs a ton.** (=is very heavy) **4** [(*the*) S] *old-fash infml* 100 miles per hour: *The motorcyclist must have been* **doing a ton** *as he passed me.* –see also TON-UP **5 come down on someone like a ton of bricks** *infml* to turn the full force of one's anger against someone, usu. as a punishment –see also TONS; compare TONNE

ton·al /ˈtəʊnl/ *adj* of tonality or tone or having tonality – see also ATONAL

ton·al·i·ty /təʊˈnælɪ̈ti/ *n tech* **1** [C;U] the character of a tune depending on the musical KEY in which it is played **2** [C] a musical KEY

tone[1] /təʊn/ *n* **1** [C] the quality or character of the sound produced by a particular instrument or singing voice: *That piano has a beautiful tone.* **2** [C] also **tones** *pl.*– a particular quality of the voice regarded as expressing a particular feeling or meaning; manner of expression: *The speaker urged us in ringing tones to support his cause.| I don't like your tone (of voice); don't take that tone with me.* (=I am annoyed or displeased by the way you are talking to me) **3** [S;U] **a** the general quality or nature of something: *the optimistic tone of the report | Her friendly opening speech* **set the tone for** *the whole conference.* **b** high quality of character: *These dreadful people* **bring down/lower the tone of** *the neighbourhood.* **4** [C] a variety or shade of a colour, different from other varieties because of more light or darkness, the addition of a slight quantity of another colour, etc.: *a picture painted in various tones of blue* –see also TWO-TONE **5** *AmE for* NOTE[1] (5) **6** [C] ‖ also **step** *esp. AmE– tech* a difference in the highness of a musical note equal to that between two notes which are two notes apart on a piano: *There is a tone between B and C sharp; B and C are half a tone apart.* –see also SEMITONE **7** the sound made by various electronic instruments, esp. push-button telephones or telephone answering machines: *Please leave a message after the tone.* **8** [U] *tech* the healthy and proper state of firmness of the organs, muscles, etc., of the body: *Exercise improves muscle tone.* **9 -toned** /təʊnd/having the stated TONE[1] (1) –see also DIALLING TONE

tone[2] *v*

tone sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to reduce the violence or forcefulness of; MODERATE: *In his public statement he toned down the criticisms he had made in private. | That orange paint's rather garish for the bedroom; I'd tone it down a bit!*

tone in *phr v* [I (**with**)] to match; HARMONIZE: *I think black shoes would tone in better with your coat than red ones.*

tone sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to make stronger, healthier, or more lively: *Swimming is the best way to tone up your body.*

tone-deaf /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* unable to tell the difference between different musical notes

tone lan·guage /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n tech* a language, such as Chinese or Yoruba, in which highness or lowness of sound are used for expressing the difference in meaning between words that otherwise sound the same

tone·less /ˈtəʊnləs/ *adj* lacking colour, spirit, etc.; lifeless; dull: *a toneless voice|reply* – **~ly** *adv*

tone po·em /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a piece of music written to represent a poetic idea, scene, etc., musically

Tong·a /ˈtɒŋə‖ˈtɑː-/ a country (**Kingdom of Tonga**) consisting of about 170 islands in the SW Pacific ocean, an independent member of the British Commonwealth since 1970; capital Nuku'alofa; population 119,000 (1989) –**Tongan** *n, adj*

tongs /tɒŋz‖tɑːŋz, tɔːŋz/ *n* [P] an instrument consisting of two movable arms joined at one end, used for holding or lifting various objects: *She used (a pair of) tongs to put some more coal on the fire. | sugar tongs for picking up lumps of sugar* –see pictures at FIREPLACE and LABORATORY

tongue /tʌŋ/ *n* **1** [C] the movable fleshy organ in the mouth, used for tasting, moving food around, and, in human beings, for producing speech **2** [U] the tongue of an animal such as the cow, cooked as food: *ham and tongue sandwiches* **3** [C] any of various objects like a tongue in shape, such as the piece of hanging metal in the middle of a bell or the piece of material under the LACES in a shoe: *Tongues of flame shot out from the*

burning hut. | *a tongue of land* —see picture at SHOE **4** [C] *fml or lit* a spoken language: *This dictionary is specially intended for people whose native tongue is not English.* **5** [(*the*) S] (in certain phrases) the tongue considered as the organ of speech: *She has rather a sharp tongue.* (=severe or unkind way of speaking) | *Hold your tongue!* (=Keep quiet!) | *I meant to say Friday, not Monday: it was a* **slip of the tongue.** **6 get one's tongue (a)round** *infml* to pronounce (a difficult word, name, etc.) correctly: *I find it hard to get my tongue round these Polish names.* **7 give/get a tongue-lashing** *AmE infml* to give or receive a spoken expression of annoyance or disapproval: *He got a tongue-lashing from his mother for tracking mud all over the living-room carpet.* **8 set tongues wagging** to cause much interest and talk; make people GOSSIP **9 speak with a forked tongue** *AmE humor* (a phrase used by Native Americans in old films or people copying them) to lie: *White man speaks with forked tongue.* **10 (with) (one's) tongue in (one's) cheek** *infml* without seriously meaning what one says: *He described me as a brilliant singer, but he said it tongue in cheek/with his tongue in his cheek.* | *a tongue-in-cheek remark* **11 -tongued** /tʌŋd/ **a** having a tongue of the stated kind: *a fork-tongued snake* **b** (habitually) speaking in the stated manner: *a sharp-tongued critic* — see also MOTHER TONGUE, **bite one's tongue** (BITE[1]), **the rough side of one's tongue** (ROUGH[1]), **on the tip of one's tongue** (TIP[1])

tongue de·press·or /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n AmE* a thin, flat piece of wood rounded at both ends used by a doctor to hold down the tongue while examining the throat —compare SPATULA (2)

tongues /tʌŋz/ **speak in tongues** to speak as if in a TRANCE, as part of a religious experience, using words of no known language

tongue-tied /ˈ· ·/ *adj* unable to speak freely, esp. because of awkwardness in the presence of others

tongue twist·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a word or phrase that is difficult to speak quickly or correctly

ton·ic[1] /ˈtɒnɪk‖ˈtɑː-/ *adj* **1** *tech* (in music) of or based on the TONIC[2] (3) **2** *fml* healthy and strengthening: *Sea air has a tonic quality.*

tonic[2] *n* **1** [C (**for**) *usu. sing.*] something that increases health, strength, or confidence: *Country air is the best tonic for someone who lives in the city.* | *When I was depressed I found her advice a real tonic.* **2** [C] a medicine intended to give the body more strength, esp. when tired: *You look run-down; you need a tonic.* | *tonic wine* **3** [(*the*) S] *tech* the first note of a musical scale of eight notes —compare DOMINANT[2]

tonic sol-fa /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] a method of showing musical notes by the first letters of the words in the SOL-FA system

tonic wa·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **tonic** ‖ usu. **quinine water** *AmE*— *n* [U] gassy water made bitter by the addition of QUININE, often added to strong alcoholic drinks: *a* **gin and tonic**

to·night[1] /təˈnaɪt/ *adv* on or during the night of today: *I've been really tired today so I think I'll go to bed early tonight.* | *at 9 o'clock tonight*

tonight[2] *n* [U] the night of today: *Tonight is a very special occasion.* | *Did you hear tonight's radio news?*

Tonight Show /·ˈ· ˌ·/, **The** an American television programme shown late at night which consists of conversations with famous people and music. The HOST (=person who runs the show) of the *Tonight Show* for many years was Johnny Carson, and most people know that he was always introduced with the words, "Here's Johnny!" Carson always began the show with a humorous MONOLOGUE (=a speech by one person) about current events and always finished it by making a movement like someone hitting a GOLF ball. When Carson left in 1992 he was replaced by Jay Leno.

ton·nage /ˈtʌnɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] **1** the size of a ship or the amount of goods it can carry, expressed in TONS **2** all the ships of a nation, esp. those that carry goods: *There were heavy losses in Britain's merchant tonnage during the Battle of the Atlantic.*

tonne /tʌn/ *n* **tonnes** *or* **tonne** a measure of weight — compare TON; see TABLE 2

tons /tʌnz/ *adv infml* very much: *I feel tons better after that drink!*

ton·sil /ˈtɒnsəl‖ˈtɑːn-/ *n* either of two small roundish organs of flesh at the sides of the throat near the back of the tongue which were once commonly removed in childhood by operation: *She had to have her tonsils out.* —see picture at RESPIRATORY

ton·sil·li·tis , tonsilitis /ˌtɒnsəˈlaɪtəs‖ˌtɑːn-/ *n* [U] a painful soreness of the tonsils

ton·so·ri·al /tɒnˈsɔːriəl‖tɑːn-/ *adj usu. humor* of a men's HAIRDRESSER or his work

ton·sure /ˈtɒnʃəʳ‖ˈtɑːn-/ *n* **1** [U] the religious act of removing all the hair from the top part of the head as a sign one is a MONK **2** [C] the part of the head that has had the hair removed in this way

Ton·to /ˈtɒntəʊ‖ˈtɑːn-/ a Native American character in the American television programme *The Lone Ranger*, who was the Lone Ranger's friend and companion —see LONE RANGER

ton-up /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *BrE old-fash infml* (of a driver) liking to travel at high speeds, esp. over 100 miles per hour

to·ny /ˈtəʊni/ *adj AmE infml* fashionable, with style, and expensive: *a tony restaurant uptown*

Tony A·ward /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ also **Tony**— *n* a prize given to the best theatre actor, best actress, best play, etc., shown in New York in a particular year

too /tuː/ *adv* **1** (before adjectives and adverbs) more than enough; to a higher degree than is necessary, right, or good: *You're going (much) too fast, slow down!* | *This dress is (a bit) too small for me.* | *We got there too late and missed the plane. There's been (far) too little rain lately and the crops are suffering.* [+*to-v*] *It's too cold to go swimming.* | *It's too early for us to go yet.* | *It was too good an opportunity to miss.* (not *a too good opportunity*) | *He's too much of a coward* (=too cowardly) *to fight.* **2** Very: *Thanks for all your help — you're too kind!* | *I haven't been too well lately.* (=I've been rather ill) | *She won't be too pleased when she hears about this.* | *We were* **only too** *pleased* (=very pleased) *to be able to help.* **3** (not at the beginning of a CLAUSE) also; in addition; as well: *I can dance and sing too.* | *I can dance. I can sing too.* (compare *I can't dance. I can't sing either.*) | *"I enjoyed that film." "Yes, I liked it too."* | *It snowed yesterday; in October too!* (=this is surprising) —compare EITHER[4]; see ALSO (USAGE) **4** *infml, esp. AmE* in fact: *"I won't do it." "You will too!"* (=you must)

▷ USAGE 1 You can say *The day is* **too** *hot* or *It's* **too** *hot a day.* (Notice the word order.) **Too** cannot be used before ordinary adjectives in the pattern **too** + adjective + noun; you can say *The coffee is* **too** *sweet* but not *the* **too** *sweet coffee.* 2 *He's* **too** *much of a coward to shoot* means either **a** "for him to shoot others" or **b** "for others to shoot him".◁

took /tʊk/ *past tense of* TAKE

tool[1] /tuːl/ *n* **1** a simple instrument that is held in the hands and used for doing special jobs, such as a hammer, spade, or SCREWDRIVER: *a set of tools* —see also MACHINE TOOL; see MACHINE (USAGE) **2** something necessary or useful for doing one's job: *Words are the* **tools of his trade.** | *This computer program gives managers a valuable planning tool.* **3** [(**of**)] a person unfairly or dishonestly used by another for the other person's own purposes: *The king was just the tool of the military government.* **4** *taboo sl for* PENIS —see also **down tools** (DOWN[5])

tool[2] *v* **1** [T] to shape or make with a tool: *The artist tooled a pattern onto the cover of the book with a hot needle.* | *hand-tooled leather boots* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to ride or drive: *We were tooling along (the road) at 50 miles per hour.*

tool (sthg. ↔) **up** *phr v* [I;T] to prepare (a factory) for production by providing the necessary tools and machinery

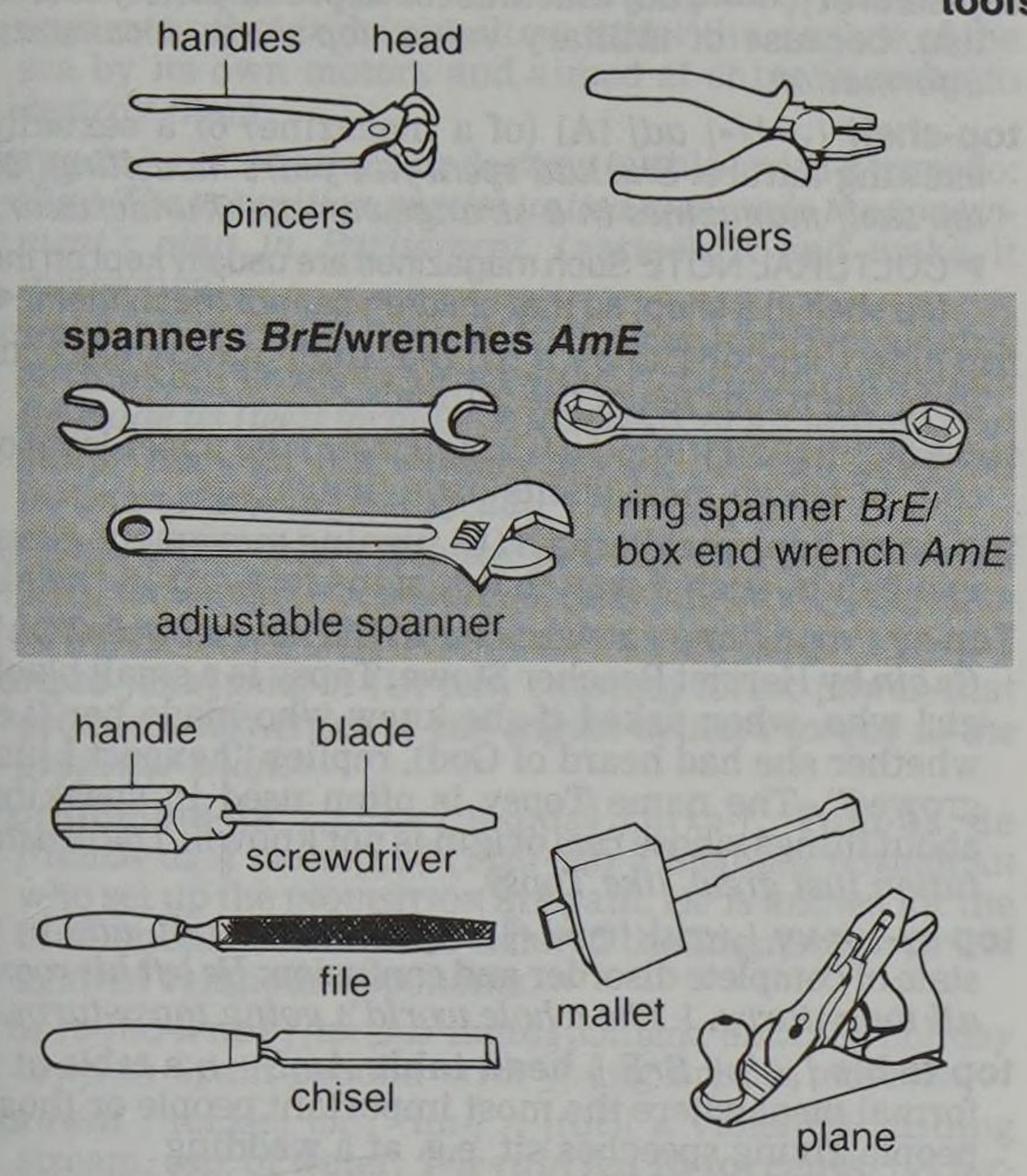
tool box /ˈ· ·/ *n* a box for tools

tool kit /ˈ· ·/ *n* a number of different tools for doing most jobs

tool·shed /ˈtuːlʃed/ *n* a small wooden building in a private garden where garden or other tools are kept

toot /tuːt/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) make a short warning or greeting sound with a horn, whistle, etc.: *The drivers were tooting their horns.* **2** *AmE sl* to take (the drug COCAINE) up through the nose —**toot** *n* : *to give a toot on one's horn*

tools



see also pictures at **axe,** drill and hammer

tooth /tuːθ/ *n* **teeth** /tiːθ/ **1** any of the small hard bony objects growing in the upper and lower parts of the mouth of most animals, used for biting and chewing (CHEW) food: *Brush your teeth twice a day.* | *I'm going to the dentist to have a tooth out.* —see picture at TEETH **2** any of the narrow pointed parts that stand out from a comb, SAW, COG, etc. **3 tooth and nail** with great violence or determination: *We* **fought tooth and nail** *to get our plans accepted.* **4 -toothed** /tuːθt/having teeth of the stated kind or number —see also TEETH, SWEET TOOTH, **long in the tooth** (LONG[1] (8)) —**~less** *adj*

tooth·ache /ˈtuːθ-eɪk/ *n* [C;U] (a) pain in a tooth —see ACHE (USAGE)

tooth·brush /ˈtuːθbrʌʃ/ *n* a small brush used for cleaning one's teeth —see picture at BRUSH

tooth·comb /ˈtuːθkəʊm/ *n* see FINE-TOOTH COMB

tooth fai·ry /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an imaginary small person who some parents tell their children will leave them a coin in return for a tooth which has fallen out, if they leave the tooth under their PILLOW at night

tooth·less /ˈtuːθləs/ *adj* having no teeth: *a toothless smile*

tooth·paste /ˈtuːθpeɪst/ *n* [U] a specially prepared substance for cleaning one's teeth

tooth·pick /ˈtuːθˌpɪk/ *n* a short thin pointed piece of wood, plastic, etc., used for removing food stuck between one's teeth

tooth pow·der /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a specially prepared powder for cleaning one's teeth

tooth·some /ˈtuːθsəm/ *adj fml or humor* (esp. of food) pleasant: *toothsome delicacies*

tooth·y /ˈtuːθi/ *adj infml* having or showing many or big teeth: *a toothy grin*

toot·le /ˈtuːtl/ *v infml* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] *BrE* to go or drive in an unhurried manner: *I must just tootle down to the shops for some flour.* **2** [I;T] to TOOT continuously and quietly: *He was tootling (on) his trumpet.* —**tootle** *n*

toots /tʊts/ also **tootsie** *n AmE infml old fash* (used as a friendly form of address to a woman, which some women find offensive): *Hi toots! How are you doing?*

toot·sie , tootsy /ˈtʊtsi/ *n* **1** (used by or to a child) a foot **2** *AmE infml* TOOTS

top[1] /tɒp‖tɑːp/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] the highest or upper part: *the top of the hill* | *The mountain tops were hidden in mist.* | *Her name was at the top of the list/page.* | *the top* (=upper surface) *of my desk* | *the table top* | *He wore a woolly hat with a little red bobble* **on top.** **2** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the best, most important or most successful part or place: *She is always at the top of the class.* (=always gets the highest marks) | *He started life at the bottom and worked his way up to the top.* | *The workers in this industry have always been at the top of the wages league.* | *The company will have to expand if it wants to stay* **on top**. **3** [C] a cover, esp. for a small container: *I can't unscrew the top of this bottle.* | *He left the top off the toothpaste.* —compare CAP, LID; see picture **4** [C] a garment worn on the upper part of the body: *a skirt with a matching top* **5** [(**in**) U] the highest GEAR[1] (3) of a motor vehicle **6** [C *usu. pl.*] the highest part(s) of a plant, usu. leaves: *birds flying through the treetops* | *turnip tops* **7** the first half of an INNING: *the top of the ninth* **8 at the top of one's voice** (shouting or singing) as loudly as possible **9 at top speed** very fast **10 from top to bottom** (of a place or organization) all through; completely: *This company needs reorganizing from top to bottom.* **11 from top to toe** (of a person) completely: *She was dressed in green from top to toe.* **12 from the top** *infml* from the beginning: *Play the song through again from the top.* **13 get on top of** *infml* to be too much or too difficult for: *This work is getting on top of me.* **14 off the top of one's head** at once, without careful thought: *I'm not sure of the answer, but off the top of my head I'd say there were about 30.* **15 on top of: a** in addition to: *He lost his job and on top of that his wife left him.* **b** in complete control of: *a competent teacher who's really on top of his job* **16 on top of the world** very happy **17 over the top** *infml, esp. BrE* more than is reasonable, sensible, or proper: *His jokes are always in such bad taste; he can't be funny without going over the top.* **18 the top of the tree** *infml* the highest position in a profession **19 top whack** *BrE infml* at most; at the highest: *The rate's about £7 an hour, or maybe £8 top whack.* —compare BOTTOM[1]; see also TOPS, BIG TOP, SCREW TOP, **blow one's top** (BLOW[1]), **thin on top** (THIN[1] (11))

top[2] *adj* of or at the top; highest, best, most important, etc.: *the top floor of a building* | *Our team's on top form* (=playing very well) *this month.* | *one of this country's top businessmen* | *Bob* **came (out) top** *in the exam.* | *He got top marks.* | *They agreed to give the matter top priority.*

top[3] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to be higher, better, or more than: *Our profits have topped £1,000,000 this year.* | *I can top your story with an even funnier one.* | *A rival company has topped our offer with a bid of $25 million.* **2** [(**with**)] to provide or form a top for: *The cake was topped with cream.* **3** (in sport) to hit (a ball) above the centre **4 top the bill** to be the chief actor or actress in a show or play

top sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *esp. AmE* **1** to complete successfully by a last action: *Let's top off the evening with a drink.* **2** to TOP **out** (2)

top out *phr v* **1** [I] to reach a highest point (and stop rising): *Do you think interest rates have topped out now?* **2** [T] (**top** sthg. ↔ **out**) *esp. BrE* to complete the building of (a large building), esp. with a special ceremony

top sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *esp. BrE* **1** [(**with**)] **a** to fill (a partly empty container) with liquid: *to top up the petrol tank* **b** *infml* to put more drink into (a person's) glass: *Your glass is nearly empty; let me top you up!* **2** to complete or bring to an acceptable level by adding something: *The director's salary is topped up by a share in the company's profits.*

top[4] *n* **1** a child's toy that is made to spin and balance on its point by twisting it sharply **2 like a top** (sleeping) deeply and well

to·paz /ˈtəʊpæz/ *n* [C;U] (a precious stone cut from) a transparent yellowish mineral

top brass /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*) U+*sing./pl. v*] *infml* people in positions of high rank, esp. the armed forces

top·coat /ˈtɒpkəʊt‖ˈtɑːp-/ *n* **1** [C;U] the last covering of paint to be put on a surface —compare UNDERCOAT **2** [C] an OVERCOAT

top dog /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n infml* the person in the highest or most important position, esp. after a struggle or effort

top-down /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* beginning with the general principles of a situation and working from there to specific details

top drawer /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [*the*+S] *old-fash infml* the highest social class: *She's not quite* **out of the top drawer** *you know, my dear.* —**top-drawer** *adj*

top·dress·ing /ˌtɒpˈdresɪŋ‖ˈtɑːpˌdresɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] a covering of LIME, sand, MANURE, etc., spread over land but not dug into it

to·pee , topi /ˈtəʊpiː‖təʊˈpiː/ *n* a hard hat for protecting the head in tropical sunshine

top-flight /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* of highest position or quality: *top-flight scientists|executives*

top gear /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] **1** the highest GEAR[1] (3) of a motor vehicle: *The car will cruise at 80 miles per hour in top gear.* **2** a state of great or highest activity: *With just two weeks to go till the election, the party's electoral campaign is in top gear.*

top hat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a man's tall black or grey silk hat, now worn only on formal occasions —see picture at HAT

top-heav·y /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* not properly balanced because of too much weight at the top; too heavy at the top in relation to the bottom: (fig.) *With so many high-ranking executives, this organization's getting top-heavy.*

to·pi·a·ry /ˈtəʊpiəri‖-pieri/ *n* [U] **1** the art of cutting trees and bushes into decorative shapes **2** (a garden containing) trees and bushes so cut

top·ic /ˈtɒpɪk‖ˈtɑː-/ *n* a subject for conversation, talk, writing, etc.: *Politics or religion are always interesting topics of conversation.*

top·ic·al /ˈtɒpɪkəl‖ˈtɑː-/ *adj* of, dealing with, or being a subject of interest at the present time: *topical issues* | *The recent events in China have made this film very topical.* —**~ly** /kli/ *adv* —**~ity** /ˌtɒpˈkælˌti‖ˌtɑː-/ *n* [U]

▷ USAGE **Topical** has the same connection with time as **local** has with place: *of great* **topical** *interest* (=interesting now but not always) | *of great* **local** *interest* (=interesting here but not everywhere).◁

top·knot /ˈtɒpnɒt‖ˈtɑːpnɑːt/ *n* a knot or bunch of hair, RIBBONS, etc., worn on the top of the head

top·less /ˈtɒpləs‖ˈtɑːp-/ *adj, adv* **1** (of a woman) with the upper part of the body, including the breasts, bare: *a beach where women go topless* | *topless waitresses* **2** (of a garment) leaving the upper part of a woman's body, including the breasts, uncovered: *a topless swimsuit*

top-lev·el /ˈ· ··/ *adj* [A] very high or highest in level of authority, importance, or quality: *top-level management* | *Top-level talks are to be held between the heads of state.*

top·most /ˈtɒpməʊst‖ˈtɑːp-/ *adj* [A] highest; right at the top

top-notch /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* of highest rank or quality; being one of the best possible

Top of the Pops /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ a British television programme in which POP[3] groups play their latest music

to·pog·raph·er /təˈpɒgrəfəʳ‖-ˈpɑː-/ *n* a person skilled in topography

to·pog·ra·phy /təˈpɒgrəfi‖-ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] (the science of describing or mapping) the character of an area, esp. as regards the shape and height of the land —**-phical** /ˌtɒpəˈgræfɪkəl‖ˌtɑː-, ˌtəʊ-/ *adj* —**-phically** /kli/ *adv*

top·per /ˈtɒpəʳ‖ˈtɑː-/ *n infml for* TOP HAT

top·ping[1] /ˈtɒpɪŋ‖ˈtɑː-/ *n* [C;U] something put on top of food to make it look nicer, taste better, etc.

topping[2] *adj old-fash infml, esp. BrE* excellent

topping-out /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *tech, esp. BrE* the act of finishing the roof of a new building, often marked by a ceremony in which a small tree is nailed to a high point on the roof: *a topping-out ceremony*

top·ple /ˈtɒpəl‖ˈtɑː-/ *v* [I;T (OVER)] to (cause to) become unsteady and fall down: *The pile of bricks toppled over.* | (fig.) *This scandal could topple the government.*

top-rank·ing /ˈ· ··/ *adj infml* of the highest skill or quality: *a top-ranking car|company|executive*

tops /tɒps‖tɑːps/ *n* [*the*+S] *old-fash infml* the very best: *She's the tops at tennis|in her field.*

TOPS /tɒps‖tɑːps/ the name of a course introduced by the British government to help people at work to train for better jobs

top-se·cret /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* that must be kept completely secret, usu. because of military value: *top-secret documents|information*

top-shelf /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] (of a magazine) of a sexually exciting nature: *She had spent five years modelling for top-shelf magazines in a strange variety of underwear.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Such magazines are usually kept on the top shelf in a shop, so that children cannot reach them.◄

top·side /ˈtɒpsaɪd‖ˈtɑːp-/ *n* [U] *BrE* high quality BEEF cut from the upper leg of the animal

top·soil /ˈtɒpsɔɪl‖ˈtɑːp-/ *n* [U] (soil from) the upper level of soil, in which most plants have their roots

top·spin /ˈtɒpˌspɪn‖ˈtɑːp-/ *n* [U] turning movement given to a ball in such a way that it spins forward in the air

Top·sy /ˈtɒpsi‖ˈtɑːp-/ a character in the NOVEL *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Topsy is a small black girl who, when asked if she knew who made her (i.e. whether she had heard of God), replies "I expect I just growed". The name Topsy is often used in speaking about things whose real origin is not known: *The constitution just grew, like Topsy.*

top·sy-tur·vy /ˌtɒpsi ˈtɜːvi◂‖ˌtɑːpsi ˈtɜːrvi◂/ *adj, adv* in a state of complete disorder and confusion: *He left his room all topsy-turvy.* | *The whole world's going topsy-turvy.*

top ta·ble /ˌ· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **head table** *AmE*— *n* a table at a formal meal where the most important people or those people giving speeches sit, e.g. at a wedding

Top Ten /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the ten best-selling records brought out in a particular week

top-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* an amount added to sthg. to raise or keep it to a desired level: *Would you like a top-up?* (=more drink in your glass) | *I think the car needs a top-up* (=more water or petrol).

tor /tɔːʳ/ *n esp. BrE* (the top of) a high rocky hill, esp. in Devon and Cornwall

Tor·ah /ˈtɔːrə/ [*the*] **a** the first five books of the Jewish Bible **b** all the writings and teachings concerned with the practice of Judaism

torch /tɔːtʃ‖tɔːrtʃ/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **flashlight** *AmE*— a small electric light carried in the hand: *The burglar shone his torch into the dark room.* **2** a mass of burning material tied to a stick and carried by hand to give light: *The Olympic torch is carried by runners to the place where the Games are being held.* | (fig., *fml*) *to pass on the torch of knowledge to future generations* **3** *AmE for* BLOW LAMP —see also **carry a torch for** (CARRY[1] (17))

torch·light /ˈtɔːtʃlaɪt‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n* [U] light produced by TORCHes (1, 2): *They held a torchlight procession to celebrate the festival.*

torch sing·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person who sings a torch song

torch song /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a song, usu. about love or unhappiness, sung with much emotion

tore /tɔːʳ/ *past tense of* TEAR

to·re·a·dor /ˈtɒriədɔːʳ‖ˈtɔː-, ˈtɑː-/ *n* a man who takes part in a Spanish BULLFIGHT, esp. one riding on a horse

tor·ment[1] /ˈtɔːment‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*;U] (a) very great pain or suffering in mind or body: *She was* **in torment** *with her toothache.* **2** [C (**to**)] something or someone that causes this

tor·ment[2] /tɔːˈment‖tɔːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to cause to suffer great pain in mind or body: *The knowledge of his guilt tormented him.* | *tormented by hunger* **2** to annoy, esp. cruelly: *The little boy tormented his younger sister.* —**~or** *n*

torn /tɔːn‖tɔːrn/ *past participle of* TEAR: *My dress got torn.* | *a torn dress*

tor·na·do /tɔːˈneɪdəʊ‖tɔːr-/ also **twister** *AmE infml*— *n* **-does** *or* **-dos** a very violent wind in the form of a very tall wide pipe of air that spins at great speed. Tornadoes are common in the American Midwest in spring and autumn, and often do great damage. Authorities broadcast a **tornado warning** when one is expected in an area. —see STORM (USAGE)

Tornado *n* a British fighter-bomber aircraft, used by the RAF, which uses SMART WEAPON TECHNOLOGY such as LASERS to find TARGETS

To·ron·to /təˈrɒntəʊ‖-ˈrɑːn-/ a city and port on Lake Ontario, Canada. Toronto is the capital of Ontario PROVINCE and the second largest city in Canada.

tor·pe·do[1] /tɔːˈpiːdəʊ‖tɔːr-/ *n* **-does** a long narrow explosive apparatus that is driven along under the surface of the sea by its own motors and aimed at ships in order to destroy them

torpedo[2] *v* [T] to attack or destroy (a ship) with a torpedo: (fig.) *The opposition parties united to torpedo the government's plan in Parliament.* (=attack it and make it ineffective)

tor·pid /ˈtɔːpɪ̬d‖ˈtɔːr-/ *adj* **1** *fml* lazy or inactive; moving or thinking slowly: *a torpid mind | The heat and humidity made us (feel) torpid.* **2** *tech* (esp. of an animal that sleeps through the winter) having lost the power of feeling or moving —~**ly** *adv*

tor·por /ˈtɔːpəʳ‖ˈtɔːr-/ also **tor·pid·i·ty** /tɔːˈpɪd ɪ̬ti‖tɔːr-/— *n* [S;U] *fml or tech* a condition of (lazy) inactivity; the state of being torpid: *This heat induces torpor.*

torque /tɔːk‖tɔːrk/ *n* [U] *tech* twisting force; power that produces ROTATION: *A car engine delivers torque to the propeller shaft.*

Tor·que·ma·da /ˌtɔːkwɪˈmɑːdə‖ˌtɔːrkə-/, **Tom·ás de** /ˈtɒməs də ‖ təʊˈmɑːs-/ (1420–98) a Spanish DOMINICAN who set up the INQUISITION in Spain. He is known for the cruel methods which he ordered the Inquisition to use against religious opponents.

Tor·re·mo·li·nos /ˌtɒrɪ̬məˈliːnɒs‖ˌtɔːrəməˈliːnəʊs/ a holiday town in Spain popular with young British tourists

tor·rent /ˈtɒrənt‖ˈtɔː-, ˈtɑː-/ *n* [(**of**)] a violently rushing stream, esp. of water: *The rain fell* **in torrents**. | *A torrent of water swept down the valley.* | (fig.) *a torrent of abuse*

tor·ren·tial /tɒˈrenʃəl‖tɔː-/ *adj* caused by or like a torrent: *torrential rain*

Tor·rey Can·yon /ˌtɒri ˈkænjən‖ˌtɔː-/ [*the*] an oil TANKER which went on the rocks on the coast of Cornwall in 1967, causing great damage to the area from the oil

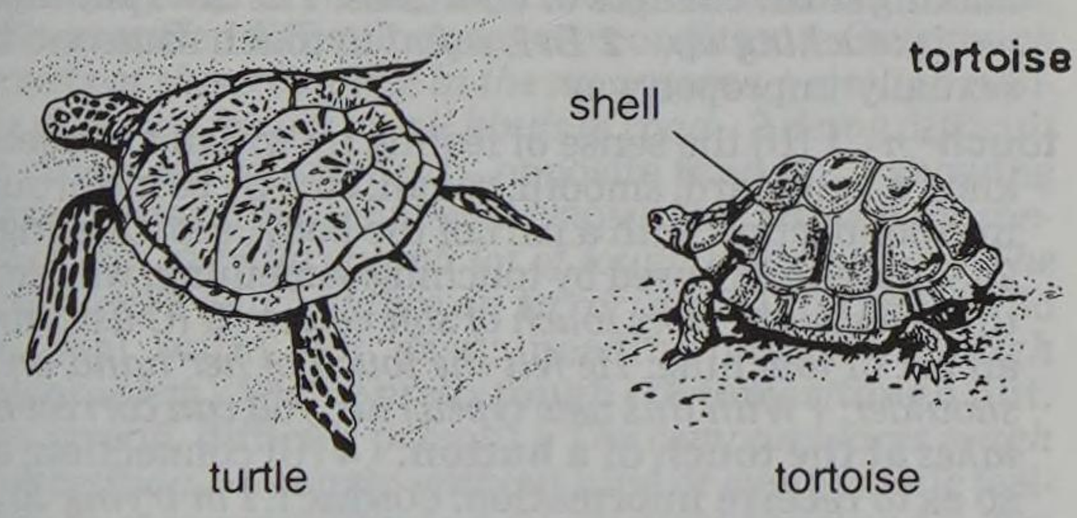
tor·rid /ˈtɒrɪ̬d‖ˈtɔː-, ˈtɑː-/ *adj* **1** *lit or tech* (esp. of weather) very hot: *the torrid desert sun* **2** full of strong feelings and uncontrolled activity, esp. sexual: *a torrid story of sex and violence | a torrid love affair* —~**ly** *adv*

tor·sion /ˈtɔːʃən‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n* [U] *tech* **1** the act of twisting or turning **2** the state of being twisted or turned **3** the force that moves a rod, wire, etc., back into the correct shape after it has been twisted out of shape

tor·so /ˈtɔːsəʊ‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n* **-sos** **1** the human body without the head and limbs **2** a representation of this in stone, metal, etc.

tort /tɔːt‖tɔːrt/ *n law* a wrongful but not criminal act, that can be dealt with in a CIVIL court of law

tor·til·la /tɔːˈtiːjə‖tɔːr-/ *n* a type of thin round flat bread made from MAIZE or WHEAT flour, eaten esp. in Mexico



tor·toise /ˈtɔːtəs‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n* a slow-moving land animal that has its body covered by a hard rounded shell into which it can pull its legs, tail, and head for protection —compare TURTLE

Tortoise and the Hare /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/, **The** an old story (FABLE) by Aesop in which a TORTOISE and a HARE have a race which the tortoise wins by moving slowly but steadily while the hare, knowing he is faster, stops halfway and falls asleep. The moral of the story is "Slow and steady wins the race".

tor·toise·shell /ˈtɔːtəsʃel, ˈtɔːtəʃel‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n, adj* [U] (made of or looking like) the hard shell of the tortoise or TURTLE, which is brown with yellowish marks, and is sometimes polished and used for making combs, small decorative boxes, etc.

tor·tu·ous /ˈtɔːtʃuəs‖ˈtɔːr-/ *adj* **1** twisted; winding; full of bends: *a tortuous mountain road* **2** not direct; confusingly COMPLICATED: *a tortuous explanation* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

tor·ture[1] /ˈtɔːtʃəʳ‖ˈtɔːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the act of causing someone severe physical pain, done e.g. out of cruelty, as a punishment, or to force someone to give information: *instruments of torture, such as the rack and thumbscrew | The military government's systematic use of torture against political prisoners* **2** [C;U] (a) severe pain or suffering caused in the mind or body: *the tortures of jealousy | It was sheer torture to hear him play the violin so badly.*

torture[2] *v* [T] to cause great pain or suffering to; practise torture on: *The police tortured him to make him confess to the crime.* | (fig.) *She was tortured with|by guilt.* —**turer** *n*

Tor·vill and Dean /ˌtɔːvɪl ənd ˈdiːn‖ˌtɔːr-/ Jayne Torvill (1957–) and Christopher Dean (1958–), a successful pair of English dancers on ice

To·ry /ˈtɔːri/ *n, adj* (a member) of the British Conservative Party: *a lifelong Tory | Tory principles* —~**ism** *n* [U]

Tory Par·ty /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **the Tories**— *n* [*the*; + *sing./pl. v*] the British Conservative Party

Tos·ca·ni·ni /ˌtɒskəˈniːni‖ˌtɑːs-/, **Ar·tu·ro** /ɑːˈtuərəʊ ‖ ɑːr-/ (1817–1957) an Italian CONDUCTOR who became musical director at La Scala before moving to the US and leading several important ORCHESTRAS

To·shi·ba /tɒˈʃɪbə ‖ tɑː-/ *n* a Japanese company making televisions, computers, and other electronic equipment

toss[1] /tɒs‖tɔːs/ *v* **1** [T (**to**)] to throw esp. in a careless or aimless way: *They tossed their hats in the air.* | *The children tossed the ball to each other.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I tossed him a cigarette.* **2** [I;T (ABOUT)] to (cause to) move about continuously in an aimless or violent way: *My husband was tossing about|***tossing and turning** *all night. He couldn't get to sleep.* | *The boat was tossed this way and that in the stormy sea.* **3** [I;T (UP, **for**)] to throw or FLIP (a coin) in the air in order to decide something, according to which side lands face upwards: *The two captains tossed (up)|tossed a coin before the match.* (=to decide which team would play first, etc.) | *There's only one cake left — I'll toss you for it.* (=compete with you for it by tossing a coin) —see also TOSS-UP **4** [T] to throw (a PANCAKE) into the air from a FRYING PAN so that it turns over in the air and lands back in the pan **5** [T (**in, with**)] to mix or shake lightly: *Toss the cooked vegetables in butter.* **6** [T] to move or lift (part of the body) rapidly: *The horse tossed its head back and smelt the wind.* | *She tossed her head angrily.*

toss off *phr v* **1** [T] (**toss** sthg. ↔ **off**) to produce quickly with little effort: *The painter tossed off a couple of sketches before lunch.* **2** [T] (**toss** sthg. ↔ **off**) to drink quickly: *Jack tossed off several pints of beer in quick succession.* **3** [I;T (=**toss** sbdy. ↔ **off**)] *BrE taboo sl* to MASTURBATE

toss[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of tossing: *with a toss of her head* **2** [*the*+S] an act of tossing a coin to decide something: *Our team* **won the toss** *so we play first.* **3** [C] *old-fash* a fall, esp. as a result of being thrown from a horse **4** [S *usu. in negatives*] *BrE sl* the least amount; anything: *I couldn't* **give a toss** (=I don't care at all) *what he thinks.* —see also **argue the toss** (ARGUE (5))

toss-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [S] *infml* an even chance; an uncertainty: *It's a toss-up between the two of them as to who will get the job.* (=either of them might equally well do so) | *It's a toss-up whether we'll manage to finish this job in time.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of tossing a coin to decide something

tos·ta·da /tɒˈstɑːdə‖təʊ-/ *n* a type of Mexican food made with a fried (FRY) TORTILLA with meat or beans and often LETTUCE and TOMATO on top

tot[1] /tɒt‖tɑːt/ *n* **1** *infml* a very small child: *a picture book for* **tiny tots** **2** [(**of**)] a small amount of a strong alcoholic drink: *a tot of rum|whisky*

tot[2] *v* **-tt-**

tot sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to add up (numbers, money, etc.)

to·tal[1] /ˈtəʊtl/ *adj* [*no comp.*] **1** complete; ABSOLUTE: *We sat in total silence.* | *He stayed away, in total disregard of my instructions.* | *I'm afraid the performance wasn't exactly a total success.* **2** [A] being a total; considered as a complete amount: *the total number of cars produced this month* —~**ly** *adv*: *I totally agree with you.* | *She's totally committed to the cause.* | *Their personalities are totally*

different: Gradable and Non-gradable Adjectives, Intensifying Adjectives

total[2] *n* **1** a number or quantity obtained as the result of addition; complete amount: *Add these numbers together and tell me the total.* | *A total of 20,000 people visited the castle on the first day it was open to the public.* **2 in total** when all have been added up: *These products, in total, account for about 80% of all our sales.* —see also SUM TOTAL

total[3] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* **1** [L+*n*] to be when added up: *They have debts totalling £100,000.* **2** [T (UP)] to find the total of; add up **3** [T] *AmE* to damage (a car) so badly that it cannot be repaired: *Her car got totalled but she wasn't hurt.*

Total a British company dealing in oil: *a Total petrol station*

total e·clipse /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* an ECLIPSE in which all the light of the sun or moon, viewed from the Earth, seems to disappear

to·tal·i·tar·i·an /təʊˌtælɪˈteəriən/ *adj* of or based on a political system in which every citizen is subject to the power of the state, which exercises complete control over all areas of life: *a totalitarian state*

to·tal·i·tar·i·an·is·m /təʊˌtælɪˈteəriənɪzəm/ *n* [U] the practices and principles of a totalitarian state

to·tal·i·ty /təʊˈtælɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** the state of being whole; completeness: *to look at the problem in its totality* **2** a total amount; sum

to·tal·i·za·tor also **-isator** *BrE* /ˈtəʊtəl-aɪˌzeɪtəʳ‖-lə-/ *n fml* a tote

tote[1] /təʊt/ *v* [T (AROUND)] *infml, esp. AmE* to carry esp. in one's arms or near one's body: *She came in toting the baby in her arms and a diaper bag over her shoulder.* | *gun-toting cowboys*

tote[2] *n* **1** ‖ also **parimutuel machine** *AmE*– a machine that shows the number of BETS placed on each horse or dog in a race and the amount to be paid to the people who risked money on the winners **2** [*the*] (+*cap.*) *BrE* a short name for the Horserace Totalisator Board, an organization that operates a betting (BET[2]) system and owns over 100 betting shops

tote bag /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n esp. AmE* a large bag for carrying things in

to·tem /ˈtəʊtəm/ *n* **1** (a representation, esp. on wood, of) an animal, plant, or object that is thought by certain societies, esp. Native Americans, to have a close relationship with the tribal group and is used as a sign of that tribe **2** *often derog* something that is thought of as especially worthy of respect in a society – ~**ic** /təʊˈtemɪk/ *adj*

totem pole /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a tall wooden pole with one or more totems cut or painted on it, put up by the Native Americans of northwest N America **2 top man on the totem pole** *AmE infml* the most important person in an organization

toto see IN TOTO

To·to /ˈtəʊtəʊ/ the dog belonging to Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* —see WIZARD OF OZ

Tot·ten·ham Court Road /ˌtɒtn-əm kɔːt ˈrəʊd‖ˌtɑːtn-əm kɔːrt-/ *n* [(*the*)] a street in central London, noted for its shops selling radio, television, VIDEO, and computer equipment

Tottenham Hot·spur /ˌtɒtn-əm ˈhɒtspɜːʳ‖ˌtɑːtn-əm ˈhɑːt-/ an English football team based in N London. They are also known as **Spurs**.

Tottenham Three /ˌtɒtn-əm ˈθriː ‖ ˌtɑːt-/ *n* [*the*+P] three people who were sent to prison in Britain in 1985 for killing a police officer during a RIOT in N London. They were all found not guilty in 1991, and it was suggested that the police had acted wrongly to make them seem guilty. Along with other cases, this case has raised questions in Britain about police questioning of people they have caught for a crime, and about the way mistakes in justice are put right —compare BIRMINGHAM SIX, GUILDFORD FOUR, MAGUIRE SEVEN; see also BROADWATER FARM ESTATE

tot·ter /ˈtɒtəʳ‖ˈtɑː-/ *v* [I] **1** to shake or move unsteadily from side to side as if about to fall: *The pile of books tottered then fell.* | (fig.) *The empire is tottering (on the edge of ruin).* **2** [+*adv/prep*] to walk with weak unsteady steps: *The old lady tottered down the stairs.* —compare STAGGER[1] (1)

tot·ter·y /ˈtɒtəri‖ˈtɑː-/ *adj* unsteady; shaky

totting-up /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the former British legal practice of forbidding people from driving if they had been guilty of more than a certain number of traffic offences: *He would have been disqualified under the totting-up method*

tou·can /ˈtuːkən, -kæn/ *n* a tropical American bird with bright feathers and a very large beak

touch[1] /tʌtʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to be separated (from) by no space at all; be in CONTACT (with): *They stood close together with their shoulders touching.* | *The branches hung down and touched the water.* | (fig.) *The speedometer needle touched* (=reached) *90 mph.* **2** [I;T] to feel, strike lightly, or make connection (with), esp. with the hands or fingers: *Don't touch!* | *Visitors are requested not to touch the paintings.* | *If I stand on a chair I can touch the ceiling with a stick.* **3** [T *usu. in negatives*] to handle: *Don't touch anything until the police arrive.* | *"Who's broken my pen?" "Not me – I never touched it!"* | (fig.) *He swore he'd never touch a drink* (=drink alcohol) *again.* | (fig.) *You've hardly touched your food – I hope you're not ill.* | (fig.) *Those cars are very low quality; I wouldn't touch them.* (=I would never buy one) —see also BARGE POLE **4** [T *usu. in negatives*] to compare with; be equal to: *Your work will never touch the standard set by Robert.* | *When it comes to making speeches, there's no one to touch him.* (=no one else is as good) **5** [T] to have an effect on the feelings of; cause to feel pity, sympathy, etc.: *His sad story so touched us that we nearly cried.* —see also TOUCHED, TOUCHING **6** [T (IN)] to mark with light strokes; put in with a pencil or brush: *He drew her head, and quickly touched in the eyes, nose, and mouth.* —see also TOUCH **up** **7** [T] *fml* to concern: *a serious matter that touches your future* **8 touch bottom: a** to reach the bottom: *The boat almost touched bottom in the shallow channel.* **b** to reach the lowest level: *After weeks of uncertainty, morale in the company has touched bottom.* **9 touch wood** *esp. BrE* ‖ **knock on wood** *AmE*– (used as if to keep away bad luck, so that something good may continue): *I've never been without a job, touch wood!* – ~**able** *adj*

touch down *phr v* [I] **1** (of a plane or spacecraft) to land **2** (in RUGBY) to press the ball to the ground behind one's opponent's GOAL in order to win a TRY

touch sbdy. **for** sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to persuade to give one (money): *He tried to touch me for £10.*

touch sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to explode **2** to start or cause (esp. violent activity): *The government's actions touched off a storm of protest.*

touch on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to talk about shortly, and perhaps without enough detail: *In her speech she touched on the need for further economies.* | *The major problems have hardly been touched on in this debate.*

touch sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to improve by making small changes or additions: *The car's paintwork needs touching up.* **2** *BrE infml* to touch someone in a sexually improper way

touch[2] *n* **1** [U] the sense of feeling by which an object is known to be hard, smooth, rough, etc., by being brought into connection with a part of the body, esp. the fingers **2** [S] the effect caused by touching something; way something feels: *the silky touch of soft velvet* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of touching: *He felt the touch of her hand on his shoulder.* | *With this new typewriter you can correct mistakes* **at the touch of a button.** **4** [U] connection, esp. so as to receive information; CONTACT: *I'm trying to* **get in touch with** *my brother; he emigrated to Australia, and I* **lost touch with** *him/we* **lost touch** *(with each other).* | *I haven't really* **kept in touch with** *people I knew at school.* | *Goodbye for now; I'll* **be in touch.** | *I'd like to go back to teaching, but I'm* **out of touch with** *my subject now.* | (fig., *derog*) *So many of these politicians are out of touch.* (=do not know about the realities of ordinary modern life) **5** [S] a particular way of doing things: *This delicate work needs a woman's touch.* | *At this restaurant you get service with a personal touch.* (=each customer is looked after in a careful friendly way) **6** [C] a small addition or detail that improves or completes something: *That little windmill in the corner of the painting is a nice touch.* | *I'm just* **putting the finishing touches to** *the cake.* **7** [S] a special ability to do something needing skill, esp. artistic work: *Your recent work's been bad; I hope you're not* **losing your touch.** **8** [S (**of**)] a slight attack, esp. of an illness: *She was off work with a touch of flu.* | *I think I've had* **a touch of the sun.** (=slight SUNSTROKE) **9** [S (**of**)] a slight amount: *This soup could do*

with a touch more salt. | *There was a touch of frost in the night.* | *That seemed a touch* (=slightly) *unfair to me.* **10** [U] (in SOCCER or RUGBY) the area of ground outside the field of play: *He kicked the ball into touch.* **11 to the touch** when felt: *A cat's fur is soft to the touch.* —see also SOFT TOUCH

touch-and-go /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *adj* risky; of uncertain result: *a touch-and-go situation* | *It was touch-and-go whether the doctor would get there in time.*

touch·down /ˈtʌtʃdaʊn/ *n* **1** the landing of a plane or spacecraft **2** (in RUGBY) an act of touching down (TOUCH **down** (2)) **3** (in American football) an act of moving the ball across the opposing team's GOAL LINE

tou·ché /ˈtuːʃeɪ‖tuːˈʃeɪ/ *interj* (an expression used when admitting the rightness or force of a person's argument, reply, etc., meaning) "That is a good point against me!"

touched /tʌtʃt/ *adj* [F] **1** feeling grateful: *I was deeply touched by their present.* [+(*that*)/*to-v*] *I'm touched that you remembered me/touched to be remembered.* —see also TOUCH[1] (5) **2** *infml* slightly mad

touch foot·ball /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* a game of American football in which touching the person with the ball stops play

touch·ing[1] /ˈtʌtʃɪŋ/ *adj* causing a feeling of pity, sympathy, etc.: *The two lovers parting at the station – what a touching scene it made.* —see also TOUCH[1] (5) —**~ly** *adv*

touching[2] *prep lit or old use* about; concerning

touch·line /ˈtʌtʃlaɪn/ *n* a line along each of the two longer sides of a sports field, esp. in football

touch·pa·per /ˈtʌtʃˌpeɪpəʳ/ *n* **1** a piece of slow-burning paper fitted into a FIREWORK, which one lights in order to start the firework burning **2 light the blue touch-paper and retire immediately** *BrE* a written instruction on a FIREWORK, sometimes used humorously to mean that something noisy and violent, such as an angry quarrel, is just about to start and people should stay away

touch·stone /ˈtʌtʃstəʊn/ *n* [(**of**)] something used as a test or standard; CRITERION

touch-tone phone /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n tdmk* a telephone that produces different sounds when its different numbered buttons are pushed. Touch-tone phones are widely used in the US to operate pre-recorded telephone information services.

touch-type /ˈ· ·/ *v* [I] to type without having to look at the letters on the TYPEWRITER; read and type what one is reading at the same time

touch·y /ˈtʌtʃi/ *adj* **1** *derog* easily offended or annoyed; too sensitive: *She's in a very touchy mood today.* **2** needing skilful or delicate handling: *a touchy situation in Northern Ireland* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

tough[1] /tʌf/ *adj* **1** strong; not easily weakened or broken; able to suffer difficult or severe conditions: *Only tough breeds of sheep can live in the mountains.* | *a tough vehicle designed for use on all kinds of road* **2** *derog* difficult to cut or eat: *tough meat* —opposite **tender** **3** showing strong determination; UNCOMPROMISING: *We won the contract, but only through a lot of tough negotiating.* | *The President's tough stance on terrorism.* **4** difficult to do or deal with; not easy; needing effort: *a tough job/problem* | *She's a pretty* **tough customer/tough nut.** (=a strong, difficult person) | *The company faces tough competition.* **5** rough; without kind or sympathetic feelings or manners: *This is a tough neighbourhood.* | *The government has threatened to* **get tough with** *people who try to avoid paying taxes.* **6** [(**on**)] *infml* unfortunate: *Tough luck!* | *It's very tough on her that she should lose her job because of someone else's mistake.* | *"I'm getting wet!" "Tough!* (said unsympathetically) *You should have brought your umbrella."* —see also HARD LUCK — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

tough[2] *n old-fash infml* a rough violent person, esp. a criminal

tough[3] *v*

tough sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml* to get through and defeat (a difficult situation) by having a strong will: *A lot of people would have resigned in the face of such accusations, but he stayed and* **toughed it out.**

tough·en /ˈtʌfən/ *v* [I;T (UP)] to become or make tough: *toughened glass* | *Three years in the army toughened him up.*

tough luck /ˌ· ˈ·/ *interj, n* HARD LUCK

Tou·louse-Lau·trec /tuːˌluːz ləʊˈtrek/, **Hen·ri de** /ˈɒnri dəǁɑːnˈriː-/ (1864–1901) a French painter, well known for his brightly-coloured POSTERS, esp. those advertising performances by famous entertainers of his time

Aristi Bruant **by Toulouse Lautrec**



tou·pee /ˈtuːpeɪǁtuːˈpeɪ/ *n* a small artificial piece of hair specially shaped to fit exactly over a place on a man's head where the hair no longer grows

tour[1] /tʊəʳ/ *n* **1** [(**round, around**)] a journey for pleasure, during which several places of interest are visited: *a tour round Europe* | *a walking/cycling tour* | *a leading tour operator* (=company that arranges holidays) —see also PACKAGE TOUR **2** [(**round**)] a short trip to or through a place, to see it: *We went on a guided tour round the castle.* | *a city sightseeing tour* **3** [(**in**)] a period of duty at a single place or job, esp. abroad: *a two-year tour (of duty) in Germany* **4** [(**of**)] a planned journey from place to place as made e.g. by a theatre company or a sports team, in order to perform, play, or appear in several places: *the England cricketers' tour of India* | *The National Youth Theatre is* **on tour** *in the North at present.* | *The Queen was in Sydney today on the first leg* (=stage) *of her Australian tour.*

tour[2] *v* [I (**round**);T] to visit on a tour: *We're touring (round) Italy for our holidays this year.* | *a touring holiday*

tour de force /ˌtʊə də ˈfɔːsǁˌtʊər də ˈfɔːrs/ *n* [S] *lit or fml, apprec* a show of great skill: *Her speech to the Democratic Party convention was a tour de force.*

Tour de France /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a famous bicycle race that takes place in France each year. The Tour de France goes all the way round the country and takes several days to complete.

tour·is·m /ˈtʊərɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the practice of travelling for pleasure, esp. on one's holidays **2** the business of providing holidays, tours, hotels, etc., for tourists: *The country depends on tourism for much of its income.*

tour·ist /ˈtʊərɨst/ *n* **1** a person travelling for pleasure: *Oxford is full of tourists in the summer.* | *a tourist hotel* **2** a sportsman on TOUR[1] (4)

tourist at·trac·tion /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n* a place or event which attracts large numbers of tourists: *Stratford-upon-Avon is a major tourist attraction*

tourist class /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] (on a ship or aircraft) the standard travelling conditions which are fairly cheap and suitable for ordinary travellers: *I always travel tourist class.* | *a tourist class ticket* —compare BUSINESS CLASS, CABIN CLASS

tourist in·dus·try /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* all the businesses, hotels, MUSEUMS, etc. that make most of their money from tourists: *a good year for the tourist industry*

tourist of·fice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **tourist in·for·ma·tion of·fice** /ˌ·· ··ˈ·· ˌ··/— *n* an office giving information to tourists about things to see, places to stay, and means of travel in a particular place: *Is there a tourist office in this town?*

the symbol for the Tourist Information Office



tour·ist·y /ˈtʊərɨsti/ *adj usu. derog* full of or suitable for tourists: *The village is beautiful, but it's become a bit too touristy.*

tour·na·ment /ˈtʊənəmənt, ˈtɔː-ǁˈtɜːr-, ˈtʊər-/ *n* **1** an event in which a number of games are played, the winner being the player who wins the greatest number of games: *a tennis/chess tournament* **2** (in former times) a competition of courage and fighting skill between noble soldiers

tour·ney /ˈtʊəni, ˈtɔː-‖ˈtɜːr-, ˈtʊər-/ *n old use or pomp* a tournament

tour·ni·quet /ˈtʊənɪkeɪ, ˈtɔː-‖ˈtɜːrnɪkɫt, .ˈtʊər-/ *n* something, esp. a band of cloth, that is twisted tightly round an arm or leg to stop bleeding: *We had to apply a tourniquet to his leg.*

tour of du·ty /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* TOUR¹(3)

tour op·e·rat·or /ˈ· ˌ····/ *n BrE* a company which arranges tours, esp. PACKAGE TOURS: *a small tour operator running three coaches | Tour operators are reporting a sharp fall in bookings as a result of the war.*

tou·sle /ˈtaʊzəl/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to disarrange (esp. the hair); make untidy

tout¹ /taʊt/ *v* **1** [I (**for**);T] *derog* to try repeatedly to persuade people to buy (one's goods), use (one's services), etc.: *At one time, solicitors were not allowed to advertise; it was regarded as* **touting for business.** | *Our company does not tout its wares on television.* **2** [T **(as)**] *often derog* to praise greatly, esp. as a form of advertising: *This show is being widely touted in the press as the greatest ever on Broadway.* **3** *AmE* to give information on a horse in a race in return for money

tout² *BrE* ‖ **scalper** *AmE– n derog* a person who offers tickets that are in short supply for sale at a price higher than usual: *A* **ticket tout** *offered me a £5 Cup Final ticket for £60.*

tow¹ /təʊ/ *v* [T] to pull (esp. a vehicle) along by a rope or chain: *We towed the car to the nearest garage|towed the boat into the harbour.*

tow² *n* **1** [C] an act of towing: *My car's broken down; will you give me a tow?* **2** [U] the state of being towed: *We* **took** *the boat* **in tow.** | *The van is* **on tow.** **3 in tow** *infml* following closely behind: *She arrived with all her children in tow.*

to·wards /təˈwɔːdz‖tɔːrdz/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **to·ward** /təˈwɔːd‖tɔːrd/*esp. AmE– prep* **1** in the direction of, without necessarily reaching: *She was walking towards town when I met her. | They have taken the first step towards reaching an agreement. | We've made great strides towards sexual equality.* **2** in a position facing: *He stood with his back towards me. | The house faces towards the river.* **3** near; just before in time: *Towards the end of the afternoon it began to rain.* **4** in relation to: *What is their policy|attitude towards America?* **5** for the purpose of; for part payment or fulfilment of: *We save £10 towards our holidays each week.*

tow·a·way /ˈtəʊəweɪ/ *n AmE* a vehicle which is standing where it is not allowed and which may be taken away by the police –**towaway** *adj* : *a towaway zone* (an area in which vehicles may be taken away by the police)

tow·el¹ /ˈtaʊəl/ *n* (*often in comb.*) a piece of cloth or paper used for rubbing or drying wet skin, dishes, etc.: *a bath towel | a hand towel* –see also SANITARY TOWEL, TEA TOWEL, **throw in the towel** (THROW **in**) and see picture at ROLL

towel² *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T (DOWN)] to rub or dry with a towel

tow·el·ette /ˌtaʊəˈlet/ *n AmE* a small, wet, soft piece of paper used to clean a part of one's body: *a package of towelettes | a box of towelettes made especially for babies*

tow·el·ling *BrE* ‖ **toweling** *AmE* /ˈtaʊəlɪŋ/ *n* [U] thickish cloth, used esp. for making towels

towel rail /ˈ·· ·/ also **towel rack**– *n* a bar or frame on which towels can be hung, esp. in a bathroom: *The bathroom fittings include a heated towel rail.*

tow·er¹ /ˈtaʊəʳ/ *n* **1** a tall building standing alone or forming part of a castle, church, etc.: *a bell tower | the Tower of London* –see picture at CHURCH **2** a tall structure, often made of metal, used for signalling, broadcasting, etc.: *the Eiffel Tower | an air traffic control tower* –see also CLOCK TOWER

tower² *v* [I **(above, over)**] to be very tall, esp. in relation to the height of the surroundings: *The high mountains towered over the little town.* | (fig.) *a giant company that towers over its rivals*

Tower [*the*] the TOWER OF LONDON: *In the old days people could be sent to the Tower for insulting the monarch like that.*

tower block /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a tall block of flats or offices –see colour picture on page 162

Tower Bridge /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a bridge which crosses the River Thames in London, just to the E of the Tower of London. The part of the bridge which carries the road is in two pieces which can be lifted to make room for ships passing under the bridge –see colour map on page 817

Tower Ham·lets /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a BOROUGH of London, on the N side of the River Thames which includes the Docklands area

tow·er·ing /ˈtaʊərɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** very tall: *towering trees|skyscrapers* **2** of great importance; OUTSTANDING: *one of the towering intellects of our time* **3** very great; INTENSE: *She was in a towering rage.* (=extremely angry)

Tower of Babel /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *n* [*the*] a tower in a story in the Bible whose builders intended it to reach to HEAVEN. They made God angry so that he made them all speak different languages. They could not understand each other, and were unable to finish building the tower. People sometimes mention the Tower of Babel when describing a scene of confusion, disorder and the noise of many voices. –see also BABEL

Tower of Lon·don /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ also **Tower**– [*the*] an ancient FORTRESS to the E of the City of London, on the N side of the River Thames, formerly a place where the king and queen lived, and a prison for important people. It is now a MUSEUM, and the place where the CROWN JEWELS are kept. The Tower of London is ceremonially guarded by the Yeomen of the Guard or "Beefeaters" –see colour map on page 817

tower of strength /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n apprec* someone who can always be depended on to give help, sympathy, and support in times of trouble

tow·head /ˈtəʊhed/ *n* a person with very light-coloured hair –~**ed** *adj* : *a towheaded little boy*

town /taʊn/ *n* **1** [C] a large area with houses and other buildings where people live and work, usu. smaller than a city and larger than a village **2** [C+*sing./pl. v*] all the people who live in such a place: *The whole town is|are furious about the council's education policy.* **3** [(*the*) U] the business or shopping centre of a town: *We went to (the) town to do some shopping today. | She's* **out of town** *on business at the moment.* **4** [U] the chief city of an area (in England, usu. London): *I was in town on business last week.* **5** [*the*+S] (life in) towns and cities in general: *I prefer the town to the country.* **6 go to town** *infml* **a** to behave wildly, esp. by spending a lot of money: *He's really gone to town this time and bought a Rolls Royce.* **b** to do something with great thoroughness and keenness: *The newspapers have* **gone to town on** *this scandal about the minister and his mistress.* (=printed many shocking stories about it) **7 (out) on the town** *infml* enjoying oneself wildly, esp. at night, in places of entertainment –see also GHOST TOWN, MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, MARKET TOWN, NEW TOWN, **blow town** (BLOW¹), **paint the town red** (PAINT²)

town and gown /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] the ordinary people of a town or city, and its university or college students, between whom there are often thought to be differences of background and attitude which prevent a happy relationship –**town-and-gown** *adj* : *a real town-and-gown atmosphere*

town clerk /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* an official who keeps records, advises on legal matters, and acts as secretary of a town

town cen·tre /ˌ· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **downtown** *AmE– n* the area in the centre of a town, often the oldest part of the town and the place where official buildings are: *Few people live in the town centre – it is mostly made up of shops and offices.*

town coun·cil /ˌ· ˈ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **city council** *AmE– n* a group of people responsible for arranging public services such as roads, the collection of waste, public parks, and (in Britain) council housing in a town: *She has served on the town council for 15 years.*

town cri·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* (esp. in former times) a person employed to walk about the streets shouting out news, warnings, etc. Town criers used to ring a bell and shout "Oyez! Oyez!" to get people's attention.

town·ee /taʊˈniː/ *BrE* ‖ **townie, towny** *AmE– n infml, often derog* someone who lives in a town, esp. one whose experience is limited to town life: *I found a couple of townees having a picnic in the bull field yesterday*

town hall /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a public building used for a town's local government –compare CITY HALL

town house /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a house in a town or city, esp. a fashionable one in a central area **2** a house in a town belonging to someone who also owns a house in the country **3** *AmE* a house in a group of houses which share one or more walls and often have no gardens —compare SEMIDETACHED, TERRACE (1)

town meet·ing /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n AmE* a meeting held by people in a town to decide and discuss questions that are important to the town. Town meetings are commonly held in New England states.

Town Mouse and the Coun·try Mouse, The /ˌ· ˌ· · · ˈ·· ˌ·/ an old story about a town mouse who invites a poor country mouse to visit him in the town. By the end of the story, both mice decide that they prefer their own way of life to that of the other mouse.

town plan·ning /ˌ· ˈ··/ ‖ usu. **urban planning** *AmE*— *n* [U] the study of the way towns work, including traffic, where people live, services, etc., and the planning of the way they are built to make them as effective as possible —**-ner** *n*

town·scape /ˈtaʊnˌskeɪp/ *n* (a painting of) a view of a town

Towns·hend /ˈtaʊnzend/, **Peter** (1945–) an English ROCK³ musician who formerly played with the group **The Who**

town·ship /ˈtaʊnʃɪp/ *n* **1** (in Canada and the US) a town, or town and the area around it, that has certain powers of local government **2** (in South Africa) a town where black citizens live

township vi·o·lence /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] cases of violence in South African townships between township people and the police, or esp. between groups of blacks, e.g. supporters of the African National Congress and of the Inkatha Freedom Party

towns·man /ˈtaʊnzmən/ **towns·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.*— *n* **-men** /mən/ *esp. lit or old use* a person who lives in a town

towns·peo·ple /ˈtaʊnzˌpiːpəl/ also **towns·folk** /-fəʊk/— *n* **1** [*the*+P] the people who live in a particular town considered as a group **2** [P] people who live in towns as opposed to the country

tow·path /ˈtəʊpɑːθ‖-pæθ/ *n* a path along the bank of a CANAL or river, used esp. formerly by horses pulling boats

tow·rope /ˈtəʊrəʊp/ *n* a rope, chain, etc., by which something is towed (TOW¹)

tow truck /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a strong vehicle which can pull cars behind or on the back of it: *Call a tow truck to take the car to the mechanic's.*

tox·ae·mi·a , toxemia /tɒkˈsiːmiə‖tɑːk-/ *n* [U] *med* a medical condition in which the blood contains poisons

tox·ic /ˈtɒksɪk‖ˈtɑːk-/ *adj* poisonous or caused by poisonous substances: *a toxic drug | The factory had been sending out toxic waste/fumes.* —~**ity** /tɒkˈsɪsəti‖tɑːk-/ *n* [U]

tox·i·col·o·gy /ˌtɒksɪˈkɒlədʒi‖ˌtɑːksɪˈkɑː-/ *n* [U] the scientific and medical study of poisons, their nature and effects, and the treatment of poisoning —**-gist** *n*

toxic shock syn·drome /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a serious illness esp. of young women, involving a high temperature and a sudden drop in blood pressure, which is thought to be connected with the use of TAMPONS

toxic waste /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] waste products from industry which are harmful to the environment, people, or animals. Many people are concerned with the dangers of toxic waste and the safety of places that are supposed to get rid of it: *a toxic waste dump*

tox·in /ˈtɒksən‖ˈtɑːk-/ *n* a poisonous substance, esp. one produced by bacteria in a living or dead plant or animal body and usu. causing a particular disease

Tox·teth /ˈtɒkstəθ‖ˈtɑːk-/ an area of central Liverpool with many black and unemployed people, which was the scene of violent RIOTS in 1981

toy¹ /tɔɪ/ *n* an object for children to play with: *Don't play with that gun; it's not a toy! | a toy soldier | a toy shop*

toy² *adj* [A] being a small breed of dog kept as a pet: *a toy poodle*

toy³ *v*

toy with sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to consider (an idea) not very seriously: *He toyed with the idea of becoming an actor.* **2** to handle or play with purposelessly: *While he was talking to me, he toyed with a pencil.*

toy boy /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE infml* a young man taken as a lover or companion by an older woman

Toy·o·ta /tɔɪˈəʊtə/ a car or other motor vehicle made by the Japanese company Toyota

trace¹ /treɪs/ *v* [T] **1** [(**to**)] to find (a thing or person) by following their course: *Government scientists have been unable to trace the source of the epidemic. | I can't trace that letter you sent me. | The criminal was traced to London.* (=was discovered to be in London by searching) **2** [(BACK, **to**)] to find the origins of by finding proof or by going back in time: *His family can trace its history back to the 10th century. | The whole rumour was traced (back) to someone who had a grudge against him.* **3** to follow the course, development, or history of: *His new book traces the beginnings of the Labour movement.* **4** to copy (a drawing, map, etc.) by drawing its lines on transparent paper placed on top of it —~**able** *adj*

trace² *n* [(**of**)] **1** [C;U *often in questions and negatives*] a mark or sign showing the former presence or passing of some person, vehicle, or event: *Did the police find any trace of the murderer? | We've lost all trace of our daughter.* (=we no longer know where she is) | *They have disappeared* **without (a) trace** *in the jungle.* **2** [C] a very small amount of something: *They found traces of poison in the dead man's blood.*

trace³ *n* either of the ropes, chains, or lengths of leather by which a cart, carriage, etc., is fastened to an animal that is pulling it —see also **kick over the traces** (KICK)

trace el·e·ment /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n tech* a simple chemical substance that is necessary for healthy growth and development, found in plants and animals in very small quantities

trac·er /ˈtreɪsəʳ/ *n* a bullet that leaves a line of smoke or flame behind it so that its course can be seen

trac·e·ry /ˈtreɪsəri/ *n* [U] decorative patterns with branching and crossing lines, as in the upper parts of many church windows

Tracey¹ see SHARON AND TRACEY

Tra·cey² /ˈtreɪsi/, **Stan** /stæn/ (1926–) a British JAZZ musician who plays piano, is a band leader, and writes music

tra·che·a /trəˈkiːə‖ˈtreɪkiə/ *n med for* WINDPIPE —see picture at RESPIRATORY

tra·cho·ma /trəˈkəʊmə/ *n* [U] *tech* a painful illness that attacks the transparent covering over the eye and the inner surface of the eyelids

trac·ing /ˈtreɪsɪŋ/ *n* a copy of a map, drawing, etc., made by tracing (TRACE¹ (4))

tracing pa·per /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] strong transparent paper used for tracing (TRACE¹ (4))

track¹ /træk/ *n* **1** also **tracks** *pl.*— a line or set of marks left by a person, animal, vehicle, etc., that has passed before: *The dog followed the fox's tracks into the woods. | tyre tracks in the mud | He's escaped from prison, but the police are* **on his track.** (=following him, esp. by looking for his tracks) | (fig.) *A good spy must know how to* **cover his tracks** *well.* (=keep his movements or activities secret) —see also TRAIL **2** a narrow path or road, esp. a rough one: *a cycle track | a mountain track* —see WAY (USAGE) **3** also **tracks** *pl.*— a railway line **4** *AmE* **a** (a) sport that involves COMPETITIVE running **b** (a) sport that involves both running and/or jumping (both TRACK EVENTS and FIELD EVENTS): *Carl Lewis is a famous track star. | She went out for track in the spring* (she joined the school's track team). —see colour picture on page 883 **5** the course or line taken by something as it moves or travels: *These new weather satellites can follow the track of storms.* | (fig.) *That's one approach to the problem, I suppose, but personally I think you're* **on the wrong track.** (=are mistaken) **6** a course specially prepared for racing: *a racetrack* **7** an endless belt used over the wheels of some very heavy vehicles to make movement over rough ground easier: *tank tracks* **8** any of the pieces of music on an LP or TAPE¹ (3): *I like the last track on this side.* **9** any of the bands on which material can be recorded on a TAPE¹ (2) **10 in one's tracks** *infml* where one is at that moment; suddenly: *The criminal stopped dead in his tracks when the door opened behind him.* **11 keep/lose track (of)** to keep/fail to keep oneself informed about a person, situation, etc.: *It's difficult to keep track of all the new ideas and developments in education. | I lose all track of time when I listen to this music.* **12 make**

tracks *infml* to leave, esp. in a hurry **13 off the track** *AmE infml* not a part of the subject or purpose being dealt with: *We must not get off the track, we are discussing the budget now, not the sales figures.* —see also ONE-TRACK MIND, **off the beaten track** (BEATEN), **on the wrong side of the tracks** (WRONG[1])

track[2] *v* **1** [T (**to**)] to follow the track of (an animal, plane, ship, person, etc.): *They tracked the wolf to its lair|criminal to his hiding-place.* | *a space tracking station|system* (=for following the course of spacecraft) **2** [I] *tech* (of a moving part of a recording machine) to be in the correct position or ALIGNMENT; follow the correct course: *Adjust the tracking control.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*] (of a television or film camera) to move round while taking a distant picture: *a tracking shot* **4** [T] *AmE* to leave tracks (marks of feet): *The boy tracked mud all over the newly washed kitchen floor.* **5** *AmE for* STREAM[2] (5) —~**er** *n* : *Police* **tracker dogs** *are searching for the missing child.*

track sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to find by searching or following tracks: *We tracked down the animal by following the trail of bloodstains which it had left.* | (fig.) *I finally tracked down the sort of ribbon I needed in a little shop near the station.*

track and field /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* ATHLETICS

track e·vent /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* a COMPETITIVE sports event that is a running race —compare FIELD EVENT

tracking sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a station from which objects esp. SATELLITES and SPACESHIPS can be recognized and followed through space

track·lay·er /ˈtrækˌleɪəʳ/ *n AmE for* PLATELAYER

track·less /ˈtrækləs/ *adj lit* without paths, roads, etc.: *a trackless forest*

track meet /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a sports competition consisting of TRACK EVENTS and FIELD EVENTS held at one place

track rec·ord /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the degree to which someone or something has performed well or badly up to now: *The company has a good track record in the export trade.*

track·suit /ˈtræksuːt, -sjuːt‖-suːt/ *n* a warm loose-fitting suit worn by sportsmen or sportswomen when training but usu. not when playing, racing, etc. —see picture at SUIT —~**ed** *adj* : *tracksuited runners*

tract[1] /trækt/ *n fml* a short piece or writing, esp. one dealing with a religious or moral subject

tract[2] *n* **1** [(**of**)] a wide stretch of land: *vast tracts of desert in Australia* **2** *med* a system of related organs in an animal, with one particular purpose: *the digestive tract*

trac·ta·ble /ˈtræktəbəl/ *adj fml or tech* easily controlled, worked, or persuaded —see also INTRACTABLE —**tability** /ˌtræktəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

trac·tion /ˈtrækʃən/ *n* [U] *esp. tech* **1** the act of drawing or pulling a heavy load over a surface **2** the form or type of power used for this: *steam traction* **3** the force that prevents a wheel from slipping over the surface on which it runs: *Wet or muddy surfaces can cause a loss of traction.* **4** the process of being pulled by a special medical apparatus in order to cure a broken bone or similar INJURY: *Her leg's* **in traction.**

traction en·gine /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a large vehicle, usu. worked by steam power, used for pulling heavy loads along roads

trac·tor /ˈtræktəʳ/ *n* a powerful motor vehicle with large wheels and thick tyres used for pulling farm machinery (PLOUGHS, DRILLS[3] (1), etc.) or other heavy objects

Tra·cy /ˈtreɪsi/, **Spen·cer** /ˈspensəʳ/ (1900–67) an American actor popular esp. for the films he made with Katharine Hepburn, such as *Adam's Rib* —see picture at Katherine HEPBURN

trad[1] /træd/ also **trad jazz**— *n* [U] a style of JAZZ originally played in New Orleans about 1920, marked by free expression within a set instrumental structure —see also DIXIELAND

trad[2] *adj infml, esp. BrE for* TRADITIONAL

trade[1] /treɪd/ *n* **1** [U] the process of buying, selling, or exchanging goods, within a country or between countries: *The fall in the value of the pound may help to stimulate international trade.* | *a new trade agreement between England and France* **2** [*the*+S] a particular business or industry: *He works in the cotton trade|tourist trade.* **3** [C] a job, esp. one needing special skill with the hands: *Being a printer is a trade; being a lawyer is a profession.* | *He's a printer* **by trade.** —see JOB (USAGE) **4** [S (**in**)] the stated level of business activity, esp. in selling: *Outside the castle he was doing a good|***roaring trade** (=very good) *in souvenirs.* **5** [(*the*) U+*sing./pl. v*] the people who work in a particular business or industry: *a specialist magazine intended for the trade* | *trade journals* —see also TRADES, FREE TRADE, STOCK-IN-TRADE

trade[2] *v* **1** [I (**with**)] to buy and sell goods: *Britain built up her wealth by trading with other countries.* | *The US is one of our major* **trading partners.** (=we do a lot of trade with them) **2** [T (**for**)] to exchange (a product, goods, etc.): *I traded my radio for a typewriter.* | *The early settlers traded copper for corn.* | (fig.) *They were standing in the middle of the yard trading insults.* (=shouting INSULTS at each other) **3** [I (**at, with**)] *AmE* to shop regularly

trade sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T (**for**)] to give in part payment when buying something new: *He traded his old car in for a new one.* —**trade-in** /ˈ· ·/ *n, adj* : *trade-in price|value*

trade sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T (**against**)] to balance (one situation or quality) against another, with the aim of producing an acceptable or desirable result: *The government hopes to retain its popularity by trading off rising unemployment against the fall in inflation.* —see also TRADE-OFF

trade on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to take unfair advantage of (someone's good nature, sympathy, etc.)

trade up *phr v* [I] to trade in something (e.g. a car) for a similar thing which is more expensive or valuable: *He's sold his Ford Escort and traded up to a Sierra.*

trade def·i·cit /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* TRADE GAP

Trade De·scrip·tions Act /ˌ· ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] a law passed in Britain in 1968 according to which goods and services must be correctly and honestly described, and not said to be better than they are for the purposes of advertising

trade dis·count /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a reduction made in the price of goods sold to shopkeepers, etc. who are going to sell the goods to the general public

trade fair /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a usu. large gathering of companies in order to show their products or services and increase their business by taking orders

trade gap /ˈ· ·/ also **trade deficit**— *n* the difference between the value of what a country buys from other countries and what it sells abroad when the former is the larger figure

trade-in /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a used item, usu. a car, given to reduce the price of a new item: *They gave us $3000 off the price of the new car when we used our old one as a trade-in.*

trade·mark /ˈtreɪdmɑːk‖-mɑːrk/ *n* **1** a special name, sign, word, etc., which is marked on a product to show that it is made by a particular producer, and which may legally only be used by that producer **2** a particular sign, way of acting, etc., by which a person or thing may habitually be recognized: *Appearing briefly in his own films was a trademark of Alfred Hitchcock.*

trade name /ˈ· ·/ also **brand name**— *n* a name given by a producer to a particular product, by which it may be recognized from among similar products made by other producers —compare OWN LABEL

trade-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* a balance between two (opposing) situations or qualities, intended to produce an acceptable or desirable result: *In order to keep prices low, there has to be a trade-off between quality and quantity.* —see also TRADE **off**

trade price /ˈ· ·/ *n* the price at which goods are sold by producers to shops

trad·er /ˈtreɪdəʳ/ *n* a person who buys and sells goods

trade route /ˈ· ·/ *n* a way across land or sea habitually used by traders or their vehicles and ships

trades /treɪdz/ *n* [*the*+P] the TRADE WINDS

trade school /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a school one may attend to learn a TRADE

trade se·cret /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a secret concerning a certain trade and known only to those working within the business: *Can you tell me how to make this or is it a trade secret?*

trades·man /ˈtreɪdzmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** *esp. BrE* a person who buys and sells goods, esp. a shopkeeper **2** *esp. BrE* a person who comes to private houses to deliver goods (esp. in the phrase **tradesman's entrance**) **3** *AmE* a man who works at a TRADE[1] (3)

trades·peo·ple /ˈtreɪdzˌpiːpəl/ *n* [P] *esp. BrE* people who buy and sell goods, esp. shopkeepers

Trades U·nion Con·gress /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ *n* see TUC

trade un·ion /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **trades union** *BrE* ‖ usu. **union, labor union** *AmE*– *n* an organization of workers, esp. in a particular trade or profession, formed to represent their interests and deal as a group with employers. In Britain the trade unions are thought to have a strong LINK with the Labour Party, although this is not now as strong as it used to be. –~**ism** *n* [U] –~**ist** *n*

trade wind /ˈ· ·/ *n* a tropical wind that blows almost continually towards the EQUATOR (=the imaginary line running round the middle of the Earth) from either the northeast or the southeast

trading es·tate /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* an INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

trading post /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small place for carrying on trade in a distant lonely area, started by settlers esp. to exchange goods for local products

trading stamp /ˈ·· ·/ also **stamp**– *n* a type of stamp given by a shop to a customer each time the customer spends a certain amount, for sticking in a book and later exchanging for goods or money

tra·di·tion /trəˈdɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the passing down of the beliefs, practices, and customs from the past to the present: *The British are said to be lovers of tradition.* **2** [C] a customary way of thinking or behaving that has been passed down in this way and continuously followed for a long time: *This newspaper has a long tradition of attacking corruption and mismanagement.* | *He intends to continue the family tradition and seek a career in politics.* **3** [U] the body of principles, beliefs, practices, experience, etc., passed down from the past to the present: *In the West, women* **by tradition** *wear white dresses when they get married.* | *This decision represents a complete* **break with tradition.** (=is different from what has ever been done before) | *According to tradition, this house was visited by Henry VIII.*

tra·di·tion·al /trəˈdɪʃənəl/ *adj* of or in accordance with tradition: *The traditional English breakfast includes bacon and eggs.* –~**ly** *adv* : *Traditionally, women in the West are married in long white dresses.*

tra·di·tion·al·is·m /trəˈdɪʃənəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] a very great respect for tradition –**-ist** *n*

trad jazz /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] TRAD[1]

tra·duce /trəˈdjuːs‖-ˈduːs/ *v* [T] *fml* to speak falsely of (someone, their character, etc.), esp in order to make other people think badly of them –**-ducer** *n*

Tra·fal·gar /trəˈfælgəʳ/ **, Cape** the most south-westerly point of Spain. In the sea near the cape, British ships under Nelson won an important sea battle against the French and Spanish in 1805.

Trafalgar Square /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ·/ a square in central London, where Pall Mall, the Strand, and Charing Cross Road meet. Trafalgar Square is where Nelson's Column stands, and is also known for the large numbers of PIGEONS which come there and are fed by tourists –see colour map on page 817

traf·fic[1] /ˈtræfɪk/ *n* [U] **1** the movement of people or vehicles along roads or streets, of ships in the sea, planes in the sky, etc.: *The traffic's very heavy this morning.* (=there are lots of cars on the road) | *The job of an* **air traffic controller** *is to make sure aircraft can fly safely without getting too close to each other.* **2** the people, vehicles, etc., in this movement: *The cyclist weaved his way through the busy traffic.* **3** business done by a railway, ship or air travel company, etc., in carrying goods or passengers: *passenger traffic* **4** [**(in)**] trade, esp. in illegal goods: *the traffic in drugs/drug traffic*

traffic[2] *v* **-ck-**

traffic in sthg. *phr v* [T] to carry on trade, esp. of an illegal or improper kind, in (a particular type of goods): *trafficking in stolen goods*

traf·fi·ca·tor /ˈtræfɪkeɪtəʳ/ *n BrE, becoming rare* an INDICATOR (=flashing light on a car that shows a driver's intention of turning left or right)

traffic calm·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the use of methods such as building SLEEPING POLICEMEN across a road, or making the road narrower, to prevent vehicles from passing too quickly through an area

traffic cir·cle /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* ROUNDABOUT[1] (1)

traffic cone /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a CONE-shaped marker used on a road esp. for showing where repairs are being done

traffic cop /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE infml* **1** a police officer who directs traffic by standing in the road and waving his arms **2** a police officer who stops drivers who break the law and writes them a TICKET (3) (=written notice of an offence against the driving laws)

traffic is·land /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an ISLAND (2)

traffic jam /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a situation in which there is so much traffic on a road that it moves only very slowly (or not at all)

traf·fick·er /ˈtræfɪkəʳ/ *n* [**(in)**] a person who carries on trade, esp. in illegal goods: *drug traffickers*

traffic light /ˈ·· ·/ also **traffic sig·nal** /ˈ·· ˌ··/– *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of a set of coloured lights used for controlling and directing traffic, esp. where one road crosses another

traffic of·fence /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* an illegal act connected with driving a motor vehicle, esp. speeding (driving too fast) or illegal parking

traffic war·den /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n BrE* an official responsible for controlling the parking of vehicles on city streets

tra·ge·di·an /trəˈdʒiːdiən/ *n fml* an actor or writer of TRAGEDY (2)

tra·ge·di·enne /trəˌdʒiːdiˈen/ *n old-fash or pomp* an actress of TRAGEDY (2)

tra·ge·dy /ˈtrædʒədi/ *n* **1** [C] a serious play that ends sadly, esp. with the main character's death, and is often intended to teach a moral lesson: *"Hamlet" is one of Shakespeare's best known tragedies.* **2** [U] plays like this considered as a branch of literature **3** [C;U] a terrible, unhappy, or unfortunate event: *Their holiday ended in tragedy when their hotel caught fire.* | *It was a great tragedy that she died so young.*

tra·gic /ˈtrædʒɪk/ *adj* **1** very sad, unfortunate, etc.: *a tragic accident* **2** [A *no comp.*] of TRAGEDY (2): *a tragic actress* –compare COMIC –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

tra·gi·com·e·dy /ˌtrædʒɪˈkɒmədi‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* [C;U] a (type of) play or story that combines tragic and amusing parts –**-comic** *adj*

trail[1] /treɪl/ *v* **1** [T] to drag or allow to drag behind, esp. without making any effort: *He sat on the side of the boat and trailed his feet in the water.* **2** [I (ALONG, **behind**)] to be dragged along behind: *Her long skirt was trailing along in the mud behind her.* **3** [T (**to**)] to follow the trail of; TRACK[2] (1): *The police trailed the criminal to his hiding-place.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk slowly and tiredly: *The defeated army trailed along the road/trailed back to camp.* **5** [I] (of a plant) to grow over or along the ground: *trailing ivy* **6** [I;T] to fall behind (a competitor): *At half-time our team was trailing by two goals to one.* | *According to the latest polls, the Republicans trail the Democrats by 10%.* **7** [T] to advertise in advance by means of a TRAILER (2)

trail off *phr v* [I] (esp. of a voice) to become gradually weaker and reduce to nothing

trail[2] *n* **1** the track or smell of a person or animal, esp. as followed by a hunter: *The hunters followed the tiger's trail.* | *The bank robbers rode off, with the sheriff's men* **(hard/hot) on their trail.** (=following (closely) behind them) **2** a path across rough country made by the passing of people or animals: *The trail led over Boulder Pass and then descended to a lake.* **3** [**(of)**] a stream of dust, smoke, people, vehicles, etc., behind something moving: *The car raced past, leaving a trail of dust.* | (fig.) *He left a trail of broken hearts/unpaid bills behind him.* –see also **blaze a/the trail** (BLAZE[2])

trail·blaz·er /ˈtreɪlbleɪzəʳ/ *n* someone who begins or discovers something that has not been done before: *a trailblazer in the field of medicine*

trail·er /ˈtreɪləʳ/ *n* **1** a vehicle pulled by another vehicle: *He transports his boat by putting it on a trailer behind his car.* **2** an advertisement for a new film or TV show, usu. consisting of small pieces taken from it **3** *AmE for* CARAVAN (1)

trailer house /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a MOBILE HOME

trailer park /ˈ·· ·/ also **trailer court**– *n AmE* an area where many trailers stand and are used as houses: *The hurricane destroyed a trailer park on the edge of town.*

Trail of Tears /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] the way travelled by several TRIBES (groups) of Native Americans who were forced by

Traditional weddings

In Britain people get married either in church or in a REGISTRY OFFICE. In the US people often get married in a house, a garden, a park, a hotel, or in a WEDDING CHAPEL as well as in church. Most people, when they think of a wedding, think of people getting married in church and the many customs that go with this type of wedding, called a WHITE WEDDING. Even people who are not religious often want to have a TRADITIONAL white wedding in a church.

a British bride and bridegroom after the wedding ceremony



The main people at the wedding

There are special names for some of the people in the wedding ceremony. The woman who is getting married is called the BRIDE and the man is called the BRIDEGROOM or GROOM. The man has a male friend with him called the BEST MAN and the bride has some female friends called the BRIDESMAIDS. It is traditional for the bride to wear a long white dress and a white VEIL and to carry flowers in a BOUQUET. She is also supposed to wear '**something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue**' because this will bring her luck. The groom wears a suit or sometimes a TUXEDO (in the US) or MORNING SUIT (in Britain). Everyone else wears their best clothes and the women often buy hats specially.

a US garden wedding



Before the ceremony

The bridegroom is not supposed to see the bride on the day of the wedding until they meet in church as this is considered to be bad luck.

The bridegroom arrives at the church first and waits inside, near the ALTAR (=part at the front of the church), with the best man.

The families of the bride and bridegroom, and the wedding guests, sit in rows in the church.

Just before the wedding ceremony begins, the bride arrives at the church in a car with her father. The car is usually an expensive car, such as a Rolls Royce or a limousine, hired for the occasion and decorated with RIBBONS. There are often jokes made about the bride arriving late at the church.

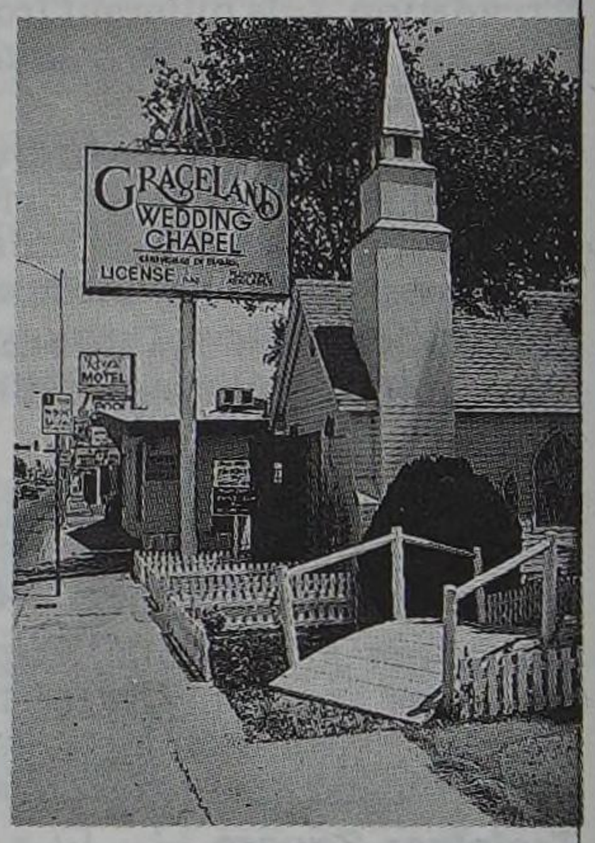
The ceremony

It is the custom for the bride's father to '**give her away**' (=officially to 'give' her to the bridegroom). The bride and her father walk slowly up the AISLE (=central passage) of the church, with the bridesmaids. People sometimes talk about '**walking up the aisle**' when they mean 'getting married'. When the bride and bridegroom are together at the altar the priest or minister begins the wedding service. The words that are said during the wedding service are very well known to most people. During the service, the bridegroom gives the bride a WEDDING RING (=a plain gold ring) and says '*With this ring I thee wed*' (='With this ring I marry you'). Sometimes the bride also gives a ring to the bridegroom. The priest or minister asks the bride and bridegroom in turn: '*Will you have this man/woman to be your wedded husband/wife?*'. The bride and bridegroom each say '*I will*'. At the end of the ceremony, the priest or minister says: '*I pronounce you man and wife*' which means that they are officially married. The bride and bridegroom then sign the REGISTER (=a special book which is the official record of their marriage).

After the ceremony

Outside the church, the friends of the bride and bridegroom throw CONFETTI (=small pieces of coloured paper) or rice over them. Photographs are usually taken of the bride and bridegroom and their families and friends.

a US wedding chapel



The reception

After the photographs everyone usually goes to a hotel for the wedding RECEPTION, which is a special meal (wedding breakfast) and party to celebrate the wedding. During the meal the bride and bridegroom cut the WEDDING CAKE and give it to their guests. At the end of the meal there are speeches, usually made by the bride's father, the bridegroom and the best man. It is traditional for the best man to make a speech in which he talks about funny and embarrassing (EMBARRASS) things that have happened to the bridegroom in the past.

Before the reception ends the bride and bridegroom usually drive away to another hotel to spend their wedding night before beginning their HONEYMOON (=a holiday taken by people who have just got married). People often make rude jokes about the wedding night because in the past it was usually the first time the couple had sex. The car the couple drive away in has usually been decorated by their friends. There is often a sign saying '**just married**' and sometimes tin cans are tied to the back of the car. Before she leaves the bride throws her bouquet to her friends to catch. According to custom, the woman who catches it will be the next one to get married.

cutting the cake



the US government to move from their homes to RESERVATIONS west of the Mississippi River from the 1820s to the 1840s. Many people died of illness and bad treatment. —see also NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

train[1] /treɪn/ *n* **1** a line of connected railway carriages pulled by an engine: *to catch/miss the train | I prefer travelling* **by train.** | *There is no train service* (=trains do not run) *between here and Wales.* —see also BOAT TRAIN **2** a long line of moving people, animals, and vehicles: *a camel train* **3** a part of a long dress (e.g. one worn for a wedding) that spreads over the ground behind the wearer **4** [+**of**] a chain of related events, thoughts, actions, etc.: *The telephone rang and interrupted my* **train of thought.** **5** *old use* a group of servants or officers attending a person of high rank

▷USAGE You can travel **by** train, or **on** a particular train. At the beginning of your journey you **get on(to)** the train and at the end of your journey you **get off** (it), **get out** (of it), or **alight** *fml* (from it). —see also DRIVE (USAGE), TRANSPORT (USAGE)◁

train[2] *v* **1** [I;T **(as, in)**] to give or be given a course of instruction or practice, esp. in a profession or skill: *She trained as a singer under a famous professor of music.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *These dogs are trained to detect explosives.* [+*to-v*] *He's training to be a doctor. | a well trained dog/voice* **2** [I;T (**for**)] to prepare for a test of physical skill, esp. by exercising: *Every morning John spends two hours training for the race.* **3** [T] to direct the growth of (a plant) by bending, cutting, tying, etc. **4** [T **(on)**] to aim (a gun, camera, etc.) at something or someone: *The firemen trained their hoses on the burning building.* —see TEACH (USAGE) — ~**able** *adj*

train·bear·er /ˈtreɪnˌbeərəʳ/ *n* an attendant who holds up the TRAIN[1] (3) of a dress, esp. at a wedding

train·ee /ˌtreɪˈniː◂/ *n* a person who is being trained: *a trainee reporter*

train·er /ˈtreɪnəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who trains people or animals for sports, work, etc. **2** *BrE* ‖ **sneaker, tennis shoe** *AmE*– a strong shoe for sports; thick PLIMSOLL — see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at SHOE

train·ing /ˈtreɪnɪŋ/ *n* **1** [S;U **(in)**] the process of training or being trained; instruction: *On the course she received (a) thorough training in every aspect of the job. | a training programme* **2** [U **(for)**] a course of special exercises, practice, food, etc., to keep sportsmen or animals healthy and fit: *The champion has* **gone into training**/*is* **in training** *for his next fight.* **3 in/out of training** in/not in a good healthy condition for a sport, test of skill, etc.

training col·lege /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* a college, usu. for adults, that gives specialized instruction: *a teacher training college | a training college for pilots*

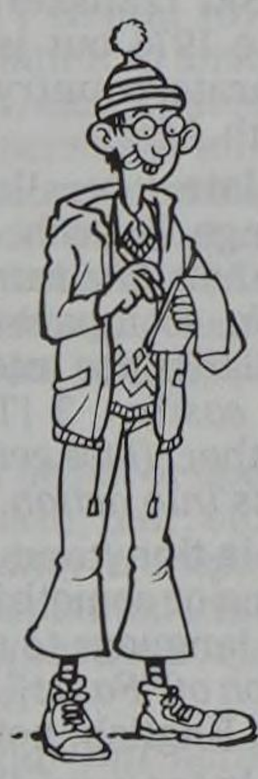
Training and En·ter·prise Coun·cil /ˌ·· · ˈ··· ˌ··/ see TEC

training shoe /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a TRAINER (2)

train set /ˈ· ·/ *n* a toy train together with the railway lines and other equipment that goes with it

train spot·ter /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n BrE* a person who collects the numbers of railway engines and information about them as a HOBBY. People often make jokes about train spotters because they are considered to be boring people who are only interested in small details and boring facts and always wear ANORAKS. —**train spotting** *n* [U]

train spotter



traipse /treɪps/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to walk tiredly or wander: *I've been traipsing round the shops all morning.*

trait /treɪ, treɪt‖treɪt/ *n fml* a particular quality, esp. of a person; CHARACTERISTIC: *Anne's generosity is one of her most pleasing traits.*

trai·tor /ˈtreɪtəʳ/ *n derog* someone who is disloyal, esp. to their country: *He was hanged as a traitor. | a traitor to the cause of women's rights*

trai·tor·ous /ˈtreɪtərəs/ *adj derog, esp. lit* of or like a traitor; TREACHEROUS — ~**ly** *adv*

tra·jec·to·ry /trəˈdʒektəri/ *n tech* the curved path of an object fired or thrown through the air: *the trajectory of a bullet* —compare ELEVATION (4)

tram /træm/ also **tram·car** /ˈtræmkɑːʳ/*esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **streetcar, trolley** *AmE*– *n* a sort of bus used in cities that is driven by electricity and runs along metal tracks set in the road

tram·lines /ˈtræmlaɪnz/ *n* [P] *BrE* **1** the metal tracks, set in the road, along which a tram runs **2** *infml* either of the pairs of lines on the edges of a tennis court, marking additional space used only when four people are playing

tram·mels /ˈtræməlz/ *n* [P] *fml or lit* something that limits or prevents free movement, activity, or development: *the trammels of material wealth* —see also UNTRAMMELLED

tramp[1] /træmp/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] to walk (through or over) with firm heavy steps: *Who's been tramping all over this carpet in muddy shoes? | The children tramped the woods looking for berries. | I've tramped the streets/tramped all round town looking for work.*

tramp[2] *n* **1** [C] *often derog* a person with no home or job, who wanders from place to place and usu. begs for food or money **2** [C] also **tramp steam·er** /ˈ· ˌ··/— a ship that does not make regular trips but takes goods to any port **3** [C] *derog, esp. AmE* an immoral woman **4** [C] a long walk: *We went for a tramp through the woods.* **5** [(*the*) S] the sound of heavy walking: *the steady tramp of soldiers' feet on the road*

tram·ple /ˈtræmpəl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T (DOWN)] to step heavily with the feet (on); crush under the feet: *The hunter was trampled to death by a wild elephant.* | (fig.) *You can't just trample on her feelings like that.*

tram·po·line /ˈtræmpəliːn‖ˌtræmpəˈliːn/ *n* an apparatus on which ACROBATS and GYMNASTS jump up and down to perform exercises, consisting of a sheet of material tightly stretched and held to a metal frame by strong springs

trance /trɑːns‖træns/ *n* a sleeplike condition of the mind in which one does not notice the things around one: *a hypnotic trance | He didn't answer when I spoke — he seemed to be* **in a trance.**

tran·ny /ˈtræni/ *n BrE old-fash infml for* TRANSISTOR (2)

tran·quil /ˈtræŋkwɪl/ *adj* pleasantly calm, quiet, or peaceful; free from anxiety, worry, etc.: *a tranquil life in the country | a tranquil lake | a tranquil smile* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**lity** *BrE* ‖ ~**ity** *AmE* /træŋˈkwɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

tran·quil·lize also **-lise** *BrE* /ˈtræŋkwɪlaɪz/ *v* [T] to make (esp. an animal) calm or peaceful, usu. by means of a drug

tran·quil·lizer also **-liser** *BrE* /ˈtræŋkwɪlaɪzəʳ/ *n* a drug used for reducing nervous anxiety and making a person calm and peaceful: *She's been on tranquillizers since the accident.*

trans- see WORD FORMATION

trans·act /trænˈzækt/ *v* [T] *fml* to carry out (esp. a piece of business or trade)

trans·ac·tion /trænˈzækʃən/ *n fml* **1** [C] something transacted; a piece of business: *The bank charges a fixed rate for each transaction.* **2** [U**(of)**] the act of transacting: *the transaction of business*

Trans-Am Cham·pi·on·ship /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ····/ [*the*] a number of sports car races held in the US and Canada

trans·at·lan·tic /ˌtrænzətˈlæntɪk◂/ *adj* **1** on the other side of the Atlantic ocean: *one of America's transatlantic military bases* **2** crossing the Atlantic ocean: *transatlantic flights* **3** concerning countries on both sides of the Atlantic ocean: *a transatlantic agreement*

trans·cei·ver /trænˈsiːvəʳ/ *n* a radio set which can both send and receive messages

tran·scend /trænˈsend/ *v* [T] *fml or lit, usu. apprec* **1** to go or be above or beyond the limits of: *The desire for peace transcended political differences. | The size of the universe transcends human understanding.* **2** to go beyond in size, strength, quality, etc.; SURPASS: *His latest symphony transcends anything he has ever written before.*

tran·scen·dent /trænˈsendənt/ *adj fml or lit, usu. apprec* going far beyond ordinary limits: *the transcendent genius of Mozart* — ~**ly** *adv* —**-dence, -dency** *n* [U]

tran·scen·den·tal /ˌtrænsenˈdentl◂/ *adj* going beyond human knowledge, understanding, and experience; impossible to discover or understand by practical experience or reason — ~**ly** *adv*

tran·scen·den·tal·is·m /ˌtrænsenˈdentəl-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* the belief that knowledge and the principles of reality can be obtained by studying thought and not necessarily by practical experience —**-ist** *n*

transcendental med·i·ta·tion /ˌ···· ··ˈ··/ also **TM**— *n* [U] a method of becoming calm and untroubled by repeating in one's mind special religious words, esp. a Hindu MANTRA. Transcendental meditation was esp. popular in the 1960s and 1970s.

trans·con·ti·nen·tal /ˌtrænzkɒntɪˈnentl, ˌtræns-‖-kɑːn-/ *adj* crossing a CONTINENT: *a transcontinental railway*

tran·scribe /trænˈskraɪb/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** [(**into**)] to write an exact copy of: *to transcribe an ancient manuscript* **2** to write down fully; turn into a written form: *A secretary transcribed the witnesses' statements|the taped recordings.* **3** to represent (speech sounds) by means of special (PHONETIC) letters **4** [(**into**)] to write in the alphabet of another language **5** [(**for**)] to arrange (a piece of music) for a different instrument or voice than the original **6** [(**onto**)] to TRANSFER[1] (3)

tran·script /ˈtrænskrɪpt/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** an exact written or printed copy; something transcribed: *A transcript of the tapes was presented as evidence in court.* **2** *AmE* an official document of a college or university which lists a student's classes and the GRADES received: *Students can pick up copies of their transcripts at the registrar's office in Murphy Hall.*

tran·scrip·tion /trænˈskrɪpʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act or process of transcribing: *The pronunciations of words are shown by a system of phonetic transcription.* **2** [C (**of**)] a transcript

tran·sept /ˈtrænsept/ *n* the part of a cross-shaped church that crosses the main body of the church at RIGHT ANGLES

trans·fer[1] /trænsˈfɜːr/ *v* **-rr-** [(**from, to**)] **1** [I;T] to move from one place, job, position, etc., to another: *The management decided to transfer production of the newspaper to its new plant in Scotland.* | *That football player is hoping to transfer|be transferred to another team soon.* | *I've transferred my allegiance to this new brand.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) move or change from one vehicle to another in the course of a journey: *At London we transferred from the train to a bus.* **3** [T] to copy (recorded material): *Callas's original recording has been transferred to compact disc.* **4** [T] *law* to give the ownership of (property) to another person —~**able** *adj*

trans·fer[2] /ˈtrænsfɜːr/ *n* **1** [C;U] an act or process of transferring: *She's hoping for a transfer to another part of the company.* | *the electronic transfer of money* **2** [C] someone or something that has transferred **3** [C] *esp. BrE* ‖ **decal** *esp. AmE*— a drawing, pattern, etc., for sticking or printing onto a surface: *He had a transfer of Mickey Mouse on the back of his shirt.* **4** [C] *esp. AmE* a ticket allowing a passenger to change from one bus, train, etc., to another without paying more money

trans·fer·ence /ˈtrænsfərəns‖trænsˈfɜːr-/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** the act of transferring or state of being transferred **2** *med* the redirecting of feelings and wishes, esp. ones that have been unconsciously kept since childhood, to a new object, esp. a doctor who is treating one's mind

transfer fee /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n BrE* the sum of money paid by one professional football club to another for the transfer of a player

transfer pas·sen·ger /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a passenger, esp. one travelling by air, who will be continuing his or her journey beyond a place, e.g. an airport, where he or she is at present: *Transfer passengers should report to the transfer desk in the air terminal.*

trans·fig·ure /trænsˈfɪgəʳ‖-gjər/ *v* [T] *fml or lit* to change (someone or something) in outward form or appearance, esp. in order to make beautiful or perfect: *a face transfigured with joy* —**-uration** /ˌtrænsfɪgjʊˈreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

trans·fix /trænsˈfɪks/ *v* [T (**with**)] *fml* **1** to force a hole through (as if) with a sharp pointed weapon: *an animal transfixed with a spear* —compare IMPALE **2** [*usu. pass.*] to cause to be unable to move or think because of terror, shock, etc.: *He stood transfixed when I told him the terrible news.*

trans·form /trænsˈfɔːm‖-ˈfɔːrm/ *v* [T (**into**)] to change completely in form, appearance, or nature: *A steam engine transforms heat into power.* | *In only 20 years the country has been transformed into an advanced industrial power.* | *Getting that new job has completely transformed her!* (=changed her behaviour, appearance, etc.) —~**able** *adj* —~**ation** /ˌtrænsfəˈmeɪʃən‖-fər-/ *n* [C;U (**into**)] : *the transformation of heat into power* | *In recent years his ideas have undergone a complete transformation.* | *You've painted the room blue all over; what a transformation!*

trans·form·er /trænsˈfɔːməʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* an apparatus for changing electrical force, usu. from one VOLTAGE to another

trans·fu·sion /trænsˈfjuːʒən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an act of) putting the blood of one person into the body of another: *The driver lost a lot of blood as a result of the accident so he was rushed to hospital for a (blood) transfusion.*

trans·gress /trænzˈgres‖træns-/ *v fml* **1** [T] to go beyond (a proper or legal limit): *His behaviour transgressed the unwritten rules of social conduct.* **2** [I] to do wrong; offend against a moral principle —~**ion** /ˈgreʃən/ *n* [C;U] —~**or** /ˈgresəʳ/ *n*

tran·si·ent[1] /ˈtrænziənt‖ˈtrænʃənt/ also **transitory**— *adj fml* **1** lasting for only a short time; quickly passing: *transient happiness* **2** (usu. of a person) passing quickly through a place or staying for only a short time: *a transient population* —**-ence, -ency** *n* [U]

transìent[2] *n AmE* a person who has no home and moves from place to place: *transients sleeping in the park*

tran·sis·tor /trænˈzɪstəʳ, -ˈsɪstəʳ/ *n* **1** a small electrical apparatus, esp. used in radios, televisions, etc., for controlling the flow of an electrical current —compare VALVE (2) **2** also **transistor ra·di·o** /·ˌ·· ˈ···/ *fml*— a usu. small radio that has transistors instead of VALVES

tran·sis·tor·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /trænˈzɪstəraɪz, -ˈsɪs-/ *v* [T] to provide with transistors: *a transistorized circuit*

tran·sit /ˈtrænsɪt, -zɪt/ *n* **1** [U] the going or moving of people or goods from one place to another: *The goods were damaged|lost* **in transit**. | *a transit lounge in the airport* (=for passengers who are changing planes) **2** [C;U] *tech* (a) movement of a PLANET or moon across the face of a larger body in space, esp. the sun

Transit *n tdmk* a well-known model of VAN or light LORRY made by the Ford Motor Company in Britain

transit camp /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a camp in which esp. REFUGEES live temporarily before moving on to the place where they will settle permanently: *There is a transit camp in Vienna for Jews who leave the Soviet Union to settle in Israel.*

tran·si·tion /trænˈzɪʃən, -ˈsɪ-/ *n* [C;U (**from, to**)] *fml* (an example of) the act of changing or passing from one form, state, subject, or place to another: *a peaceful transition from colonial rule to self-government* | *a period of transition* —~**al** *adj* —~**ally** *adv*

tran·si·tive /ˈtrænsɪtɪv, -zɪ-/ *adj tech* (of a verb) that must take an object or a phrase acting like an object. Transitive verbs are marked [T] in this dictionary: *"Break" is intransitive in the sentence "The cup fell and broke" but transitive in "I broke the cup".* —compare DITRANSITIVE, INTRANSITIVE —**transitive** *n*

tran·si·to·ry /ˈtrænzɪtəri‖-tɔːri/ *n* TRANSIENT

Trans·kei /trænsˈkaɪ/ [*the*] a HOMELAND in SE South Africa, bordering on Lesotho to the N and the Indian Ocean to the SE. Transkei has been independent of South Africa since 1976 but is not recognized internationally as a separate country and is ECONOMIC*ally* dependent on South Africa.

trans·late /trænsˈleɪt, trænz-/ *v* **1** [I;T (**from, into**)] to change (speech or writing) from one language into another: *She translated the book from French into English.* —compare INTERPRET (3) **2** [I] to be changed from one language into another: *Poetry doesn't always translate easily.* **3** [T (**into**)] to change from one form to another: *If we get elected we will be able to translate our ideas into action.* —**-latable** *adj*

trans·la·tion /trænsˈleɪʃən, trænz-/ *n* [C;U] the act of translating or something that has been translated, esp. from one language to another: *She's doing an English translation of "Faust".* | *I've only read Tolstoy* **in translation.** (=in English, not in Russian)

trans·la·tor /trænsˈleɪtəʳ, trænz-/ *n* a person who translates from one language to another, esp. in writing as a profession —compare INTERPRETER (1)

trans·lit·e·rate /trænzˈlɪtəreɪt‖træns-/ *v* [T (**from, into, as**)] *fml or tech* to write (a word, name, sentence, etc.) in the alphabet of a different language or writing system —**-ation** /ˌtrænzlɪtəˈreɪʃən‖ˌtræns-/ *n* [C;U]

trans·lu·cent /trænz'lu:sənt‖træns-/ *adj* not transparent but clear enough to allow light to pass through: *translucent glass in a bathroom window* —**-cence, -cency** *n* [U]

trans·mi·gra·tion /ˌtrænzmaɪ'greɪʃən‖ˌtræns-/ *n* [U] the passing of the soul at death into another body

trans·mis·sion /trænz'mɪʃən‖træns-/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] the act of transmitting or state of being transmitted: *the transmission of disease* **2** [C] something broadcast on television, radio, etc.: *We interrupt our normal transmissions to bring you a special news flash.* **3** [C] the parts of a vehicle that carry power from the engine to the wheels

trans·mit /trænz'mɪt‖træns-/ *v* **-tt-** **1** [I;T (**to**)] to send out (electric signals, messages, news, etc.) by radio, etc.; broadcast: *The survivors of the shipwreck transmitted a distress signal every hour.* **2** [T (**to**)] to send or pass from one person, place, or thing to another: *This infection is transmitted by mosquitoes.* | *The information is transmitted from one computer to another through a telephone line.* **3** [T] to allow to travel through or along itself: *Glass transmits light but not sound.*

trans·mit·ter /trænz'mɪtəʳ‖træns-/ *n* someone or something that transmits, esp. an apparatus that sends out radio or television signals

trans·mog·ri·fy /trænz'mɒgrɨfaɪ‖træns'mɑ:-/ *v* [T] *usu. humor* to change completely (as if) by magic —**-fication** /trænzˌmɒgrɨfɨ'keɪʃən‖trænsˌmɑ:-/ *n* [C;U]

trans·mute /trænz'mju:t‖træns-/ *v* [T (**into**)] *fml or tech* to change from one form, nature, substance, etc., into another, esp. of a better kind: *Medieval alchemists attempted to transmute base metals into gold.* —**-mutable** *adj* —**-mutation** /ˌtrænzmju:'teɪʃən‖ˌtræns-/ *n* [C;U]

tran·som /'trænsəm/ *n* **1** a bar of wood above a door or separating a door from a window above; LINTEL **2** a horizontal bar of wood or stone fitted across a window to divide it in two **3** a flat surface which forms the back part of a square-ended boat **4** also **transom win·dow** /'·· ˌ··/— *AmE for* FANLIGHT —see also OVER-THE-TRANSOM

trans·par·en·cy /træn'spærənsi, -'speər-/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being transparent **2** [C] a piece of photographic film, usu. in a square holder, by means of which a picture can be seen when light is passed through it; SLIDE² (4)

trans·par·ent /træn'spærənt, -'speər-/ *adj* **1** allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be clearly seen: *Plain glass is transparent.* **2** thin or fine enough to be seen through: *a transparent silk blouse* **3 a** easy to understand; clear: *The meaning of this passage seems quite transparent.* **b** *often derog.* about which there is no doubt; OBVIOUS: *a transparent lie* —compare OPAQUE — **~ly** *adv*

tran·spi·ra·tion /ˌtrænspɨ'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the act of transpiring (TRANSPIRE (3))

tran·spire /træn'spaɪəʳ/ *v* **1** [*it*+I+(*that*)] (of a fact, secret, etc.) to become known: *It later transpired that he hadn't been telling the truth.* **2** [I] *infml* to happen: *Let's wait and see what transpires.* **3** [I;T] *tech* (of the body, a plant, etc.) to give off (esp. watery waste matter) through the surface of the body, leaves, etc.

trans·plant¹ /træns'plɑ:nt‖-'plænt/ *v* [T (**from, to**)] **1** to move (a plant) from one place and plant it in another **2** to move (an organ, piece of skin, hair, etc.) from one part of the body to another or from one person or animal to another: *to transplant a heart* **3** to move from one place and settle or establish elsewhere: *Under the Tudors many English people were transplanted to Ireland.* | *The entire business – factory, offices, and warehouse – was transplanted to Texas.* — **~ation** /ˌtrænsplɑ:n'teɪʃən‖-plæn-/ *n* [U]

trans·plant² /'trænsplɑ:nt‖-plænt/ *n* **1** an act or operation of transplanting an organ, piece of skin, hair, etc.: *This surgeon has done several heart|kidney transplants.* | *transplant surgery* **2** the thing transplanted in such an operation: *The transplant has taken|has been rejected.* | *a skin transplant* —compare IMPLANT

trans·po·lar /ˌtrænz'pəʊləʳ◂‖træns-/ *adj fml* across the North or South Pole or POLAR area

trans·pond·er /træn'spɒndəʳ‖-'spɑ:-/ *n* a radio or RADAR apparatus that sends out a particular signal when it receives a signal telling it to do so

trans·port¹ /'trænspɔ:t ‖ -ɔ:rt/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] ‖ also **transportation** *esp. AmE*— the act of transporting or state of being transported: *The transport of goods by air is very expensive.* **2** [U] **a** ‖ also **transportation** *esp. AmE*— a means or system of carrying passengers or goods from one place to another: *Moscow's public transport system is among the finest in the world.* | *The Department of Transport is responsible for the country's roads and railways.* **b** *infml* a method of being transported: *I'd like to go to the concert, but I haven't any transport.* (=no car, bicycle, etc., to take me there) **3** [C] a ship or aircraft for carrying soldiers or supplies: *a troop transport* **4 in a transport/transports of** *lit* filled with (a very strong feeling of joy, delight, etc.)

▷ USAGE 1 for most methods of transport, use **by** when you are talking about how someone gets to a place: *He came* **by** *taxi|bus|plane|etc.* But for walking use **on foot:** *He came* **on foot.** 2 When talking about events that happen while using a particular form of transport, use either **on:** *I banged my knee while I was* **on** *my bike.* | *I met an old friend* **on** the train/**on** *the bus*/**on** *the boat*, or **in:** *We sat next to each other* **in** *the car*/**in**(*or* **on**) *the plane.* —see also BICYCLE (USAGE), BOAT (USAGE), BUS (USAGE), CAR (USAGE), DRIVE (USAGE), PLANE (USAGE), STEER (USAGE), TRAIN (USAGE)◁

trans·port² /træn'spɔ:t‖-ɔ:rt/ *v* [T] **1** [(**from, to**)] to carry (goods, people, etc.) from one place to another; CONVEY: *Trains transport the coal to the ports.* **2** [(**to**)] (in former times) to send a criminal to a distant land as a punishment **3** [*usu. pass.*] *lit* to fill with delight, joy, or any strong feeling — **~able** *adj*

Transport and Gen·e·ral Work·ers' U·nion /ˌ··· · ˌ··· '·· ˌ··/ [*the*] see TGWU

trans·por·ta·tion /ˌtrænspɔ:'teɪʃən‖-spər-/ *n* [U] **1** *esp. AmE for* TRANSPORT¹ (1,2a) **2** (in former times) the sending of a criminal to a distant land as a punishment

transport caf·e /'·· ˌ··‖'·· ·ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **truck stop** *AmE*— *n* a cheap eating place on a main road, used mainly by long-distance heavy-vehicle drivers

trans·port·er /træn'spɔ:təʳ‖-ɔ:r-/ *n* a long vehicle on which one or more cars or other vehicles can be carried: *a tank|car transporter*

Transport Min·is·ter /'·· ˌ···/ *n* the minister in the British government who is responsible for the spending of government money on roads, railways, and other state-run transport systems, and for making laws concerning transport

transport plane /'·· ˌ·/ *n* an aircraft which is used for carrying goods or people, esp. military equipment or soldiers: *a Lockheed "Hercules" transport plane*

transport ship /'·· ˌ·/ *n* a ship used esp. for carrying soldiers

trans·pose /træn'spəʊz/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to REVERSE the order or position of (usu. two things): *If you transpose the letters of "at" it reads "ta".* **2** to write or perform (a piece of music) in a musical KEY¹ (4) different from the original one —**-position** /ˌtrænspə'zɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

trans·put·er /trænz'pju:təʳ‖træns-/ *n* a specially powerful computer MICROCHIP that can handle extremely large amounts of information very fast

trans·sex·u·al /træn'sekʃuəl‖træns'sek-/ *adj, n* (of or being) a person who is physically of one sex but has an urge to be or look like a person of the opposite sex, esp. by means of a medical operation

Trans-Si·be·ri·an Rail·way /ˌ· ·ˌ··· '··/ [*the*] a railway connecting Moscow and Vladivostok, built between 1891 and 1905

tran·sub·stan·ti·a·tion /ˌtrænsəbstænʃi'eɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the belief that the bread and wine offered by the priest at the MASS (=a Christian religious service) becomes the body and blood of Christ —compare CONSUBSTANTIATION

Trans·vaal /'trænzvɑ:l‖ˌtræns'vɑ:l/ [*the*] a PROVINCE in the NE of South Africa. The Transvaal was first settled in the mid-1830s by Boer farmers, and became a centre of Afrikaner CULTURE and of the opposition to British rule which led to the Boer War.

trans·verse /trænz'vɜ:s‖træns'vɜ:rs/ *adj* [*no comp.*] *fml or tech* lying or placed across: *a transverse beam* — **~ly** *adv*

trans·ves·tite /trænz'vestaɪt‖træns-/ *n* a person who wears or gets sexual pleasure from wearing the clothes of the opposite sex —**-tism** *n* [U]

Tran·syl·va·ni·a /ˌtrænsɨl'veɪniə/ a REGION of central and W

Romania, now a centre of the Romanian steel and chemical industries. Transylvania is most famous for being the place where with Count Dracula is supposed to have lived. —see also DRACULA

trap[1] /træp/ *n* **1** an apparatus for catching and holding animals: *a mouse caught in a trap* **2 a** a difficult or dangerous position in which one is caught by deception or carelessness and from which one cannot escape: *He fell into the trap of underestimating his opponent.* **b** a plan for deceiving and tricking a person: *The police* **set a trap** *to catch the thief.* **3** *sl* a mouth: *Shut your trap!* (= Be quiet!) | *You can rely on him to* **keep his trap shut.** (=he won't tell the secret) **4** a light two-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse: *a pony and trap* **5** a U or S shaped part of a pipe, that holds water and prevents the escape of smelly gas from waste pipes **6** an apparatus from which a dog is set free at the beginning of a GREYHOUND race **7** also **sandtrap**— *AmE for* BUNKER (3) —see also DEATH TRAP, POVERTY TRAP, SPEED TRAP

trap[2] *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to place or hold firmly with no possibility of escape: *Twenty miners were trapped underground after the fire.* **2** [**(into)**] to trick; deceive: *By clever questioning they trapped him into (making) a confession.* **3** to catch (an animal) in a trap, esp. for food or fur or as a business **4** to hold back; block: *Sand and leaves trapped the water in the stream.*

trap·door /ˈtræpdɔːr/ *n* a small door covering an opening in a roof or floor

tra·peze /trəˈpiːz/ *n* a short bar hanging high above the ground from two ropes used by GYMNASTS and ACROBATS: *trapeze artists*

tra·pe·zi·um /trəˈpiːziəm/ *BrE* ‖ **trapezoid** *AmE*— *n* **-iums** *or* **-ia** /iə/ *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a four-sided shape in which only one pair of sides is parallel —see picture at QUADRILATERAL

trap·e·zoid /ˈtræpəzɔɪd/ *BrE* ‖ **trapezium** *AmE*— *n tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a four-sided shape in which no sides are parallel —see picture at QUADRILATERAL

trap·per /ˈtræpəʳ/ *n* a person who traps wild animals, esp. for their fur

trap·pings /ˈtræpɪŋz/ *n* [P] *often derog* articles of dress or decoration, esp. as an outward sign of rank: (fig.) *the trappings of power, such as titles and privileges*

Trap·pist /ˈtræpəst/ *n* a member of a Roman Catholic ORDER (=religious society) whose members never speak, and live according to very severe rules

trap·shoot·ing /ˈtræpˌʃuːtɪŋ/ *n* [U] the sport of shooting at clay plates or balls fired into the air by a powerful spring

trash[1] /træʃ/ *n* [U] **1** something of extremely low quality or value: *His new film is absolute trash.* | *What you're saying is absolute trash.* (=nonsense) **2** ‖ also **garbage**— *AmE* waste material to be thrown away; RUBBISH **3** [+*sing./pl. v*] *esp. AmE* a worthless person or worthless people

trash[2] *v* [T] *sl* to destroy, damage, or make dirty

trash·can /ˈtræʃkæn/ *n AmE* a DUSTBIN or a public LITTER BIN

trash com·pac·tor /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n AmE* a machine which presses rubbish together into a very small packet, used in some kitchens in the US

trash·men /ˈtræʃmen/ *n* [P] *AmE* the people who collect the rubbish from most private homes and businesses and who are usu. paid by the local government

trash·y /ˈtræʃi/ *adj* of extremely low quality or value, esp. of low artistic quality: *trashy novels* —**-iness** *n* [U]

trat·to·ri·a /ˌtrætəˈriːə‖ˌtrɑː-/ *n* an Italian name often given to Italian restaurants: *the Trattoria Gambini*

trau·ma /ˈtrɔːmə, ˈtraʊmə/ also **trau·mat·is·m** /ˈtrɔːmətɪzəm, ˈtraʊ-/— *n* **1** damage to the mind caused by a sudden shock or terrible experience **2** *med* a wound

trau·mat·ic /trɔːˈmætɪk/ *adj* (of an experience) deeply and unforgettably shocking: *the traumatic events of his childhood, when both his parents had been killed* — ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

trau·ma·tize also **-tise** *BrE* /ˈtrɔːmətaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to shock deeply and unforgettably **2** *med* to wound

trav·ail[1] /ˈtræveɪl/ *n* [U] *old use* **1** also **travails** *pl.*— very hard work **2** the pains of giving birth to a child: *a woman in travail*

travail[2] *v* [I] *old use* to work very hard

trav·el[1] /ˈtrævəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* **1** [I] to go from one place to another, esp. to a distant place; make a journey: *If I had a lot of money, I'd travel.* | *He travelled across Spain on a donkey.* | *He has travelled widely.* (=to many places) | (fig.) *Her mind travelled back to* (=she remembered) *her childhood.* **2** [T] to go through or over: *I've travelled* (=been to all parts of) *the world during my time in the navy.* **3** [T] to move (a stated distance) on a journey: *We travelled 100 miles on our first day.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] to pass, go, move, be sent, etc.: *At what speed does light travel?* | *Some wines travel badly.* (=the taste is spoiled when they are moved long distances) | *The news travelled fast.* **5** [I+*adv/prep*] to go from place to place in order to sell and take orders for one's firm's goods: *My husband travels for a London firm.* | *He travels in* (=sells) *cosmetics.* —see also TRAVELLER (2) **6** [I] *infml* to go very quickly: *That motorbike was really travelling; it must have been doing 100 miles an hour.* **7** (in BASKETBALL) to run with the ball without bouncing (BOUNCE) it **8 have gun/typewriter/guitar etc., will travel** a phrase used by someone who is willing to travel anywhere to do their job **9 travel light** to travel without many bags and cases

travel[2] *n* [U] travelling: *They say travel broadens the mind.* (=teaches you things) | *Snow and high winds have disrupted travel in many parts of Britain.* —see also TRAVELS

▷ USAGE Compare **travel(s), journey, voyage,** and **trip.** The general activity of moving from place to place is **travel:** *He came home after years of foreign* **travel.** If a person moves from place to place over a period of time we speak of their **travels**: *Did you go to Rome during your travels?* A **journey** (usu. **trip** *AmE*) is the time spent and the distance covered in going from one particular place to another: *a long* **journey** *by train from Paris to Moscow* | *Persepolis was ten days'* **journey** *across the desert.* A **voyage** has the same meaning but is only by sea: *The* **voyage** *from England to Australia used to take several months.* A **trip** is a short journey, or one on which you spend only a short time in another place, then come back. *We'll have time for a* **trip** *to France next weekend.*◁

travel a·gen·cy /ˈ·· ˌ···/ also **travel agent's, travel bu·reau** /ˈ·· ˌ··/— *n* a business that arranges travel, e.g. by buying tickets, finding hotel rooms, etc.: *He went into the travel agent's on impulse and booked a week in France.*

travel a·gent /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a person who owns or works in a travel agency

trav·el·a·tor /ˈtrævəleɪtəʳ/ *n* a TRAVOLATOR

Trav·el·card /ˈtrævəlkɑːd‖-kɑːrd/ *n* a special travel ticket at a reduced price for travel in Greater London on trains, buses, and the Underground

travel ex·pens·es /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n AmE for* TRAVELLING EXPENSES

trav·elled *BrE* ‖ **traveled** *AmE* /ˈtrævəld/ *adj* **1** (of a person) experienced in travel to the stated degree: *a much/widely travelled writer* **2** (of a road, area, etc.) used by travellers (to the stated degree): *a well travelled road*

trav·el·ler *BrE* ‖ **traveler** *AmE* /ˈtrævələʳ/ *n* **1** a person on a journey: *She joined her fellow travellers.* **2** [**(in)**] *BrE* a SALES REPRESENTATIVE —see also COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER **3** *BrE for* GIPSY

traveller's cheque /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a cheque bought from a bank or travel agency that can be exchanged for the money of the country one is in, used by travellers abroad: *to cash one's traveller's cheques*

trav·el·ling *BrE* ‖ **traveling** *AmE* /ˈtrævəlɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** that travels: *a travelling theatre company* **2** carried by or used by a traveller: *a travelling alarm clock* | *a travelling rug* —see picture at CLOCK **3** of or connected with travel

travelling ex·pens·es /ˈ··· ·ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **travel expenses** *AmE*— *n* [P] money paid back to one usu. by an employer to replace the cost of journeys made for that employer

travelling peo·ple /ˈ··· ˌ··/ also **travellers, travelling folk** /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [P] *BrE* gipsies (GIPSY) or similar people who have no fixed home and travel around the country

travelling sales·man /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* a SALES REPRESENTATIVE

trav·el·ogue also **-og** *AmE* /ˈtrævəlɒg‖-lɔːg, -lɑːg/ *n* a film or talk describing travel in a particular country, a person's travels, etc.

trav·els /ˈtrævəlz/ *n* [P] travelling; journeys, esp. abroad: *He described some of the things he'd seen on/during his travels.* —see TRAVEL² (USAGE)

trav·el·sick /ˈtrævəlˌsɪk/ *adj* sick because of the movement of a vehicle —~**ness** *n* [U]

tra·verse¹ /ˈtrævɜːs‖trəˈvɜːrs/ *v* **1** [T] *fml* to pass across, over, or through: *The lights traversed the sky searching for enemy planes.* **2** [I] *tech* to make a traverse

tra·verse² /ˈtrævɜːs‖-ɜːrs/ *n tech* a movement to the side across the face of a very steep slope of rock or ice, to a place where climbing is easier

trav·es·ty /ˈtrævɨsti/ *n* [(**of**)] a copy or example of something that completely misrepresents the true or intended nature of the real thing: *So much information had been given in advance to the newspapers that the politician's trial was a* **travesty of justice.** (=was very unjust)

trav·o·la·tor, travelator /ˈtrævəleɪtəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **moving sidewalk** *AmE*— *n* an endless moving band set into a floor for moving people, saving them the effort of walking, esp. in airports and shopping centres

Tra·vol·ta /trəˈvɒltə/, **John** (1954–) an American popular music singer, dancer, and actor, best known for appearing in the films *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease* — see colour picture on page 685

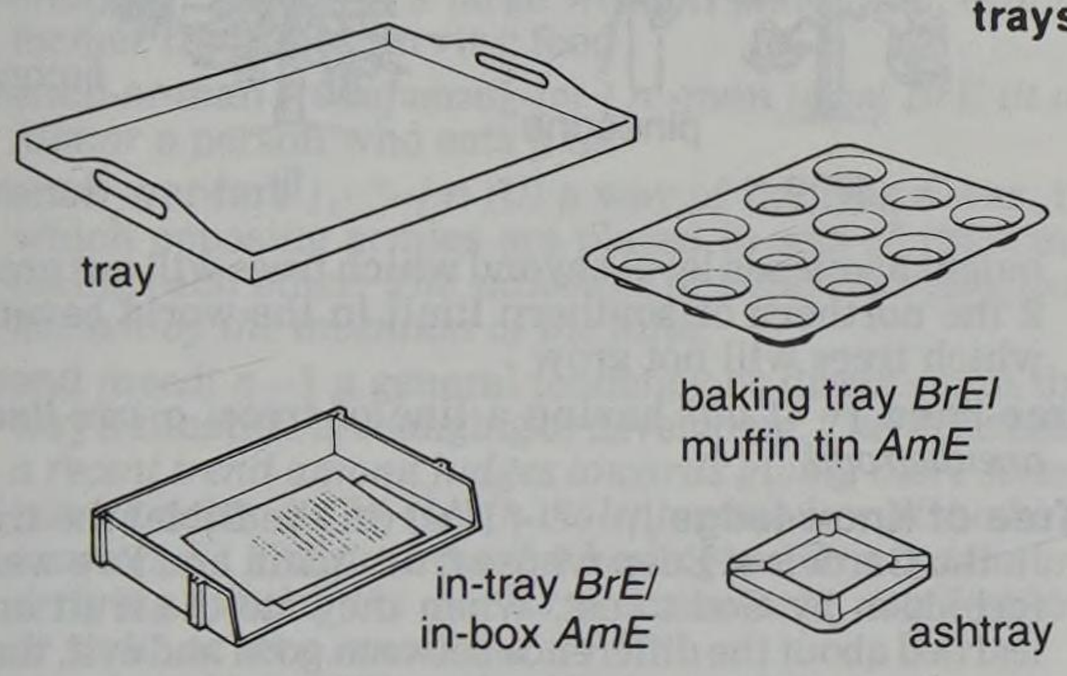
trawl¹ /trɔːl/ *v* [I;T (**for**)] to fish with a trawl: *The boats were out trawling the bay for herring.*

trawl² *n* **1** a large fishing net with a wide mouth that is drawn along the sea bottom **2** also **trawl line** /ˈ·· ·/*AmE*— a long fishing line to which many smaller fishing lines are fastened

trawl·er /ˈtrɔːləʳ/ *n* a fishing boat that uses a trawl

trawl·er·man /ˈtrɔːləmən‖-lər-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a man who works on a trawler

trays



tray /treɪ/ *n* a flat piece of plastic, metal, wood, etc., with raised edges used for carrying small articles, esp. cups, plates, food, etc.: *He put the toast on the breakfast tray.* | *a silver tray* | *a tray of glasses* (=holding a lot of glasses) | (*BrE*) *His secretary put his mail in his* **in tray** *and took the documents he had dealt with from his* **out tray.**

treach·e·rous /ˈtretʃərəs/ *adj* **1** showing great disloyalty and deceit: *a treacherous plot to poison the king* **2** full of hidden dangers: *treacherous currents* | *treacherous weather conditions for drivers* —~**ly** *adv*

treach·e·ry /ˈtretʃəri/ *n* **1** [U] great disloyalty and deceit; unfaithfulness —compare TREASON **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a disloyal or deceitful action

trea·cle /ˈtriːkəl/ *BrE* ‖ **mólasses** *AmE*— *n* [U] a very thick sticky dark liquid made from sugar

trea·cly /ˈtriːkli/ *adj BrE* **1** thick and sticky; like treacle: *treacly black mud* **2** (of a drink or liquid food) too thick and sweet: (fig.) *a story full of treacly sentiment*

tread¹ /tred/ *v* **trod** /trɒd‖trɑːd/, **trodden** /ˈtrɒdn‖ˈtrɑːdn/ **1** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **on**] to put one's foot when walking; step: *Don't tread on the flowers!* | *She trod on some glass and cut her foot.* | (fig.) *You'll have to tread carefully when you discuss that subject with him; he's rather sensitive about it.* **2** [T] to press firmly or crush with the feet: *In some parts of the world they still tread grapes to make wine.* | *Don't tread mud into the carpet.* **3** [T] *esp. lit* to walk along; follow: *Every day he trod the same path through the woods.* **4** [T] to make (a path) by walking **5 tread a measure** *BrE old use* to dance **6 tread on someone's heels** to follow very closely behind someone **7 tread on someone's toes/corns** to offend someone, esp. by insensitive remarks or behaviour **8 tread water** to stay upright in deep water with the head above the surface by moving the feet up and down as if one is riding a bicycle

▷ USAGE **Tread** is understood but considered formal by most American speakers. They are often more likely to use **step**: *Don't* **step** *on the flowers.* For sense 2, **track** is more common: *Don't* **track** *mud* **on** *the carpet.* **Tread grapes** and **tread water** are both used in American English.◁

tread² *n* **1** [S] the act, manner, or sound of walking: *We heard our father's heavy tread on the staircase.* **2** [C;U] the pattern of raised lines on a tyre **3** [C] the part of a step or stair on which the foot is placed

trea·dle /ˈtredl/ *n* an apparatus worked by the feet to drive a machine: *the treadle of an old sewing machine*

tread·mill /ˈtredˌmɪl/ *n* a MILL worked by people treading on steps fixed to the edge of a large wheel or by animals treading an endless belt: (fig.) *She was glad to escape from the treadmill of office life.* (=its repeated uninteresting work)

trea·son /ˈtriːzən/ *n* [U] (the crime of) great disloyalty to one's country, esp. by helping its enemies or by violent opposition to those in power: *to commit treason* — compare TREACHERY; see also HIGH TREASON

trea·so·na·ble /ˈtriːzənəbəl/ also **trea·son·ous** /ˈtriːzənəs/— *adj law* of or being treason: *Plotting to kill the king is a treasonable offence.* —**-bly** *adv*

trea·sure¹ /ˈtreʒəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] wealth in the form of gold, silver, jewels, etc.: *buried treasure* **2** [C] a very valuable object: *The library has many art treasures.* **3** [C] *infml* a person considered very precious: *My secretary's a real treasure.*

treasure² *v* [T] to keep or consider as precious; CHERISH: *treasured memories/possessions*

treasure hunt /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a game in which each player or team tries, with the help of CLUES, to be the first to find whatever has been hidden

Treasure Is·land /ˌ·· ˈ··/ an adventure story by Robert Louis Stevenson about PIRATES looking for buried TREASURE. The best-known character is a pirate called Long John Silver, who only has one leg.

trea·sur·er /ˈtreʒərəʳ/ *n* a person in charge of the money belonging to a club, organization, political party, etc.: *to elect/appoint a new treasurer*

treasure trove /ˌtreʒə ˈtrəʊv‖-ʒər-/ *n* **1** [U] *esp. law* money, gold, jewels, or other valuable objects found hidden usu. in the ground, and claimed by no one. In Britain, such things are taken as belonging to the king or queen, but the finder may be allowed to keep them. In the US the finder is usu. allowed to keep them. **2** [C *usu. sing.*] a collection of valuable things found unexpectedly

trea·su·ry /ˈtreʒəri/ *n* **1** [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] (*usu. cap.*) the government department that is responsible for managing the money system of a country and for carrying out government plans in relation to taxes and public spending: *The Treasury exercises tight control over public spending.* —compare EXCHEQUER **2** [C] (esp. in former times) the place where the money of a government is kept

Treasury Bench /ˈ··· ˌ·/ [*the*] the first row of seats to the right of the Speaker in the House of Commons, used by the most important government ministers

Treasury bill /ˈ··· ˌ·/ also **T-bill** *infml*— *n* an American government BOND. Treasury bills are sold to raise money for the government and usu. bought by large financial institutions around the world. —see also GILT-EDGED

treat¹ /triːt/ *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*, esp. **like**] to act or behave towards in the stated way: *This firm has always treated its workers well.* | *She treats us like children.* (=as if we were children) | *Try to treat all your students the same.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to deal with or handle in the stated way: *This delicate glass must be treated with care.* | *The newspapers treated the story in a sensational way.* | *They are claiming that their request has been unfairly treated.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*, esp. **as**] to regard or consider in the stated way: *Our employer treated our suggestions as a joke.* **4** [T (**for**)] to try to cure by medical means: *My sister is being treated for a heart condition.* — compare CURE¹ **5** [T (**to**)] to buy or give (someone) something special, as a friendly act: *No, no, put your money*

away; let me treat you! | I'm going to treat myself to a holiday in the Seychelles next year. **6** [T] to put (something) through a chemical or industrial process in order to change it: *This car has been specially treated against rust.* **7** [I (**with**)] *fml* (esp. of opposing groups) to talk in order to reach an agreement, end a war, etc. **8 treat someone like dirt** *infml* to treat someone as if they were worthless —~**able** *adj*

▷ USAGE A doctor can **treat** (=try to **cure**) a person who is ill, or give **treatment** in the form of medicine, special food, exercise, etc. But we do not say that a doctor has **cured** someone until that person is completely well again.◁

treat of sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to be about; deal with (a subject): *a poem treating of love*

treat[2] *n* **1** something that gives great pleasure or delight, esp. when unexpected: *I took my son to the zoo as a birthday treat.* **2** something that the stated person will pay for, for other people: *This meal is my treat, so put your money away.* —see also DUTCH TREAT

trea·tise /ˈtriːtɪs, -tɪz/ *n* [(**on**)] a serious book or article that examines a particular subject

treat·ment /ˈtriːtmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act or manner of treating someone or something: *the newspapers' sensational treatment of the story | The prisoners complained of ill treatment by their guards. | These minority groups were given preferential treatment | The foreign VIPs were given* **the full treatment** (=were entertained and looked after in a very special way) *during their tour of the island.* **2** [C;U (**for**)] (a substance or method used in) the treating of illness by medical means: *a new treatment for asthma | He's receiving/undergoing treatment for cancer. | Her illness is not* **responding to** (=being cured by) **treatment.** —see TREAT (USAGE)

treat·y /ˈtriːti/ *n* **1** [C] (*sometimes cap.*) an agreement made between countries, esp. after a war, and formally signed by their representatives: *The conference drew up the terms of the peace treaty. | to ratify a treaty | the Treaty of Versailles* —compare CONVENTION (3), PACT **2** [U] *tech* agreement between people: *We sold the house by private treaty.*

Treaty of Brest-Li·tovsk /ˌtriːti əv ˌbrest lɪˈtɒfsk‖-ˈtɔːfsk/ [*the*] a peace agreement made on March 3rd 1918 between Germany and its allies (ALLY) and Soviet Russia

Treaty of Rome /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] an agreement made in 1958 between Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, which established the Common Market

Treaty of Ver·sailles /ˌ·· ··ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] an agreement made in June 1919 between the ALLIES and Germany, which ended the First World War, punished Germany for the war and formed the League of Nations

treb·le[1] /ˈtrebəl/ *predeterminer* three times as big, as much, or as many as; multiplied by three: *They sold the house for treble the amount they paid for it.*

treble[2] *v* [I;T] to make or become three times as great in number, size, or amount: *Their profits have trebled in the last two years.*

treble[3] *n* **1** [C] a boy with a high singing voice **2** [U] the upper half of the whole range of musical notes —compare BASS[1] (2) —**treble** *adj, adv* : *a treble recorder | to sing treble*

treble chance /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+S] (in Britain) a method of competing in the football POOLS by guessing whether matches will be home wins, away wins, or DRAWS

treble clef /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n tech* a sign (𝄞) on a musical STAVE showing that a note written on the bottom line of the stave is the E above MIDDLE C —compare BASS CLEF

tree /triː/ *n* **1** a tall plant with a wooden trunk and branches, that lives for many years: *She sat in the shade of the apple tree. | to climb a tree | to plant a tree | to cut down/chop down a tree* **2** a bush or other plant with a treelike form: *a banana tree* **3** a drawing with a branching form, esp. as used for showing family relationships —see also CHRISTMAS TREE, FAMILY TREE, TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, **bark up the wrong tree** (BARK[1]), **grow on trees** (GROW), **up a gum tree** (GUM TREE), **the top of the tree** (TOP[1]) —~**less** *adj*

tree fern /ˈ· ·/ *n* a large tropical FERN that grows to the size of a tree

tree·line /ˈtriːlaɪn/ also **timberline**— *n* [*the*+S] **1** the height above sea level beyond which trees will not grow **2** the northern or southern limit in the world beyond which trees will not grow

tree-lined /ˈ· ·/ *adj* having a line of trees: *a tree-lined avenue/road*

Tree of Know·ledge /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] (in the Bible) the tree in the Garden of Eden whose fruit Adam and Eve were forbidden by God to eat. When they ate the fruit and learned about the difference between good and evil, they were made to leave the Garden of Eden —see also FALL

tree sur·ge·ry /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* [U] treatment of damaged trees and other work, e.g. pruning (PRUNE[1]), carried out as part of the professional care of trees grown for shade or for decoration —**tree surgeon** *n*

tre·foil /ˈtriːfɔɪl, ˈtrefɔɪl/ *n* **1** any of several small plants that has leaves divided into three little leaves **2** a decorative shape like the leaf of one of these plants, used esp. in patterns on stone

trek /trek/ *v* **-kk-** [I+*adv/prep*] to make a long difficult journey, esp. on foot: *We went trekking in the mountains for our holiday.* —**trek** *n* : *to go on/for a trek* | (fig.) *It's a real trek* (=a long journey) *to get to the shops from where we live.* —compare HIKE; see also PONY TREKKING

Trek·kie /ˈtreki/ *n* a keen follower of the American SCIENCE FICTION television programme *Star Trek*, esp. someone who goes to CONVENTIONS (=gatherings) with other followers of the programme —see also STAR TREK

trel·lis /ˈtrelɪs/ *n* [C;U] (a) light upright frame of long narrow pieces of wood, esp. used as a support for climbing plants: *roses growing on a trellis* —compare LATTICE

trem·ble[1] /ˈtrembəl/ *v* [I] **1** to shake uncontrollably with quick short movements, usu. from fear, excitement, or weakness: *He was trembling with rage. | The whole house trembled as the train went by. | a voice trembling with emotion* **2** [(**at, for**)] to feel great fear and anxiety about something: *We all trembled at the prospect of an enemy invasion.* [+*to-v*] *I tremble to think what's going to happen.* —**-blingly** *adv*

tremble[2] *n* [S] an act of trembling

tre·men·dous /trɪˈmendəs/ *adj* **1** very great in size,

trees



maple



willow



horse chestnut



conker *BrE*/ chestnut *AmE*

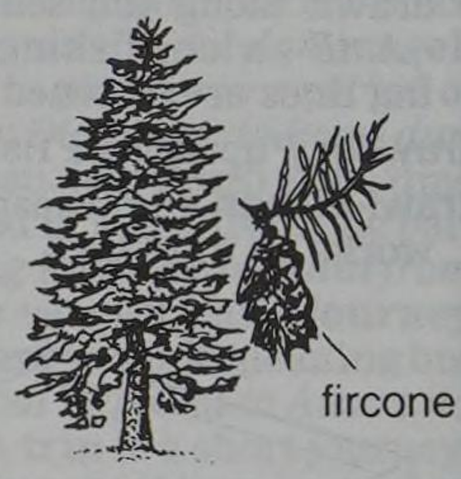
oak

acorn



pinecone

pine



fircone

fir

amount, or degree: *This rocket travels at a tremendous speed.* | *We heard a tremendous explosion.* | *We've had a tremendous amount of rain recently.* | (*infml*) *She's a tremendous talker.* (=talks a lot) **2** *infml* wonderful: *We went to a tremendous party last night* —~**ly** *adv*

trem·o·lo /ˈtremələʊ/ *n* **-los** *tech* a special slightly shaking effect produced by rapidly varying the sound of a musical note, esp. when played on a stringed instrument, or when sung

trem·or /ˈtremərˠ/ *n* **1** a shaking movement of the ground: *an earth tremor* (=a small EARTHQUAKE) **2** a shaking or trembling movement caused by fear, nervousness, illness, weakness, etc.: *The story was so frightening that it sent tremors down my spine.* | *There was a slight tremor in his voice as he said hello to her.* | *a tremor of excitement*

trem·u·lous /ˈtremjʊ̈ləs/ *adj fml* slightly shaking, esp. because of nervousness: *a tremulous voice* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

trench /trentʃ/ *n* **1** a long narrow hole cut in the ground; ditch: *To grow roses, first dig a trench and fill it with manure.* **2** [*often pl.*] a deep ditch dug in the ground as a protection for soldiers: *In the First World War the soldiers fought in trenches.* —compare DUGOUT (2) **3** *tech* a long narrow deep valley in the sea bed

tren·chant /ˈtrenʃənt/ *adj* (of language) forceful, effective and direct; not minding about giving offence: *a hard hitting speech with some trenchant comments about the government's failures* | *trenchant criticism* —~**ly** *adv* —**-chancy** *n* [U]

trench coat /ˈ· ·/ *n* a loose-fitting raincoat with a belt and pockets, esp. made in a military style. Trench coats are often thought of in connection with PRIVATE DETECTIVES because many of them wear coats like this in books and films.

trench·er /ˈtrenʃəˠ/ *n* a large wooden plate used, esp. in former times, for serving food

trench·er·man /ˈtrenʃəmən‖-ʃər-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *BrE lit or humor* a person who eats a lot

trench war·fare /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a way of fighting a war, in which opposing armies are placed in sets of TRENCHes facing each other: *The stalemate of trench warfare was broken by the invention of the tank.*

trend /trend/ *n* **1** a general tendency or direction in the way a situation is changing or developing: *There has been a recent trend among judges towards giving more severe punishments.* | *The rise in violent crime is a disturbing new trend.* | *The stock market had a good day, but the underlying trend of the market is downward.* **2** a fashion or style: *to set a new trend*

trend·set·ter /ˈtrendˌsetəˠ/ *n infml* a person who starts or popularizes the latest fashion —**-ting** *adj*

trend·y[1] /ˈtrendi/ *adj esp. BrE infml, sometimes derog* very fashionable; very influenced by the latest fashions: *a trendy dress|restaurant|girl* | *These ideas are typical of the trendy middle-class liberals.* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

trendy[2] *n BrE infml derog* a trendy person: *a restaurant full of young trendies*

Trent /trent/ [*the*] a river in the Midlands of England, flowing NE into the Humber

Trent Bridge /ˌ· ˈ·/ a cricket ground in Nottingham, England

tre·pan /trɪˈpæn/ *v* **-nn-** [T] to cut a round piece of bone out of (the SKULL) as part of a medical operation

tre·phine[1] /trɪˈfiːn‖-ˈfaɪn/ *v* [T] *tech* to trepan

trephine[2] *n tech* a special medical instrument with a sharp fine-toothed circular cutting edge used in trephining

trep·i·da·tion /ˌtrepɪˈdeɪʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* a state of anxiety about something bad that might happen; APPREHENSION: *I waited for the results in a state of some trepidation.*

tres·pass[1] /ˈtrespəs, -pæs/ *v* [I] **1** [(**on**)] to enter privately owned property or land without permission **2** *old use or bibl* to do wrong; SIN —~**er** *n* : *Trespassers will be prosecuted.* (written on a notice)

trespass on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to take an unfair advantage of; make too much use of: *It would be trespassing on their generosity to accept any more from them.*

trespass[2] *n* **1** [C;U] (an act or offence of) trespassing: *the laws relating to trespass* **2** [C] *old use or bibl* a wicked or wrong action; SIN **3 Forgive us our trespasses** a phrase from the LORD'S PRAYER

tress·es /ˈtresɪz/ *n* [P] *lit* a woman's long hair

tres·tle /ˈtresəl/ ‖ usu. **sawhorse** *AmE*— *n* a wooden beam fixed at each end to a pair of spreading legs, used, usu. in pairs, as a removable support for a table (**trestle table**) or other flat surface

Tre·vith·ick /trɪˈvɪθɪk/, **Richard** (1771–1833) an English engineer who invented the high-pressure steam engine, which was used in the first steam railway engine in 1804

trews /truːz/ *n* [P] *rare* trousers, esp. TARTAN trousers —see PAIR (USAGE)

trey /treɪ/ *n AmE dial* a playing card with three marks on it: *I've got two pair, treys and sevens.*

tri·ad /ˈtraɪæd/ *n* **1** a group of three closely related people or things **2** (*often cap.*) a Chinese criminal secret society

tri·al /ˈtraɪəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) hearing and judging a person, case, or point of law in a court: *The murder trial lasted six weeks.* | *He is in detention awaiting trial.* | *The case was sent for trial at the crown court.* | *He is* **(going) on trial** (=being tried in court) *for armed robbery.* —see also SHOW TRIAL, **stand trial** (STAND[1]) and see also extra information on page 742 **2** [C;U] (an act or period of) testing to ensure quality, usefulness, safety, etc.: *The new aircraft has performed very well in its initial trials.* | *I've appointed a secretary for a trial period to see how well she does the job.* | *a new drug that is undergoing clinical trials* | *I took the car on trial|on a two weeks' trial, but I didn't like it so I took it back.* | *a* **trial marriage** (=when two people live together without being married, to see if they would be suitable partners) —see also TRIAL BALLOON **3** [C (**to**)] an annoying thing or person; cause of worry or trouble: *That child is a trial to his parents.* | *After many* **trials and tribulations,** *we finally reached our destination.*

trial and er·ror /ˌ··· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] a way of getting satisfactory results by trying several methods and learning from one's mistakes: *We established our present working methods by a process of trial and error.*

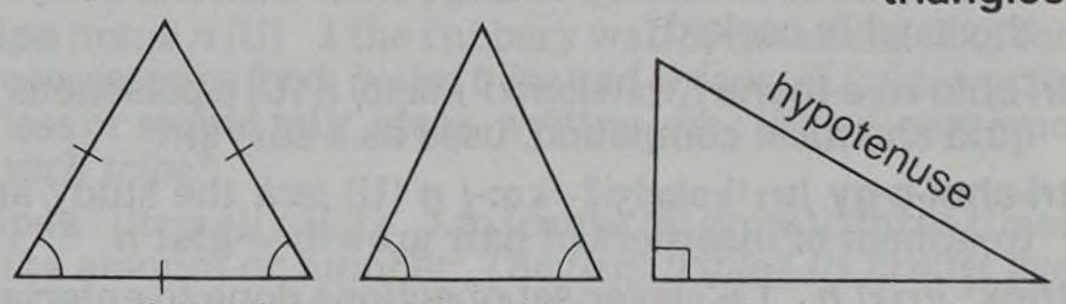
trial bal·loon /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n AmE* information about a plan or intention made known in order to test opinion, esp. of the public: *The White House sent up a trial balloon by warning congress it might veto the new welfare bill.*

trial by ju·ry /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *n* the type of trial used in the British and US legal systems, in which a JURY hears the details of a case in a court of law and makes a decision about it

trial run /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* an act of testing something new to see if it works properly: *Give the car a trial run and see what you think of it.*

trial sep·a·ra·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* a period during which a husband and wife agree to live apart for a time while they decide whether to remain married or get a DIVORCE[1](1)

triangles



tri·an·gle /ˈtraɪæŋgəl/ *n* **1** a flat shape with three straight sides and three angles —see picture at MATHEMATICS **2** a three-cornered or three-sided figure, object, or piece: *a triangle of land* **3** a small three-sided musical instrument made of a bent steel rod, played by being struck with another steel rod —see picture at PERCUSSION **4** *AmE for* SETSQUARE —see also BERMUDA TRIANGLE, ETERNAL TRIANGLE

tri·an·gu·lar /traɪˈæŋgjʊ̈ləˠ/ *adj* **1** of or shaped like a triangle **2** *fml* having or concerning three people or groups: *a triangular sporting competition*

tri·an·gu·la·tion /traɪˌæŋgjʊ̈ˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U] a method of finding one's position by measuring the angles and lines of a triangle on a map

triangulation sta·tion /·ˌ··ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **bench mark** *AmE*— *n* a point used in triangulation when a map is being made, often marked by a square-sided block of stone on top of a hill

tri·ath·lon /traɪˈæθlən/ *n* a sporting competition in which

competitors take part in three events, esp. long-distance running, swimming, and cycling

trib·al /ˈtraɪbəl/ *adj* of a tribe or tribes: *a tribal dance* | *a tribal chief* | *tribal warfare|divisions*

trib·al·is·m /ˈtraɪbəl-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the organization of a social group into a tribe **2** *sometimes derog* tribal loyalty, esp. as it influences people's behaviour and ideas

tribe /traɪb/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a social group made up of people of the same race, beliefs, customs, language, etc., living in a particular area often under the leadership of a chief: *the tribes living in the Amazonian jungle* | *a member of the Zulu tribe* —see RACE (USAGE) **2** a named group within a tribal society that descends from one family: *the tribes of Somalia* | *the Beni Mtir tribe of Berbers* **3** a group of related plants or animals: *the cat tribe*

tribes·man /ˈtraɪbzmən/ **tribes·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.*— *n* **-men** /mən/ a member of a tribe, esp. formerly

trib·u·la·tion /ˌtrɪbjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (a cause of) trouble, grief, worry, suffering, etc.: *After many* **trials and tribulations,** *we finally reached our destination.*

tri·bu·nal /traɪˈbjuːnl/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a court of people officially appointed to deal with special matters: *The rent tribunal reduced my rent.* | *He took his case of unfair dismissal to the industrial relations tribunal.*

trib·une /ˈtrɪbjuːn/ *n* **1** an official of ancient Rome elected by the ordinary people to protect their interests **2** (*usu. cap.*) a common name for a newspaper, esp. in the US: *the Chicago Tribune* | *the Herald-Tribune*

Tribune Group /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] (in Britain) a group of left-wing Labour Members of Parliament, established in 1966

trib·u·ta·ry[1] /ˈtrɪbjʊtəri‖-teri/ *n* a stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river: *the tributaries of the Rhine*

tributary[2] *adj* [(**to**)] *fml* (of a person, country, etc.) having a duty to pay TRIBUTE (3) to another: *tributary states*

trib·ute /ˈtrɪbjuːt/ *n* **1** [C;U] something done, said, or given to show respect or admiration for someone: *I'd like to* **pay tribute to** (=praise and thank) *the office staff for all the hard work they've put in on this project.* | *Everyone in the office gave money towards a* **floral tribute** (=special flowers) *for his funeral.* **2** [S+**to**] something that clearly shows the effect or influence of a particular good quality or action: *The new engine's performance is a tribute to the skill of its designers.* **3** [C;U] (a) payment made by one ruler, government, or country to another as the price of peace, protection, etc.

trice /traɪs/ *n* **in a trice** *esp. BrE infml* in a moment; in the shortest possible time

tri·ceps /ˈtraɪseps/ *n* **triceps** *or* **tricepses** the large muscle that runs along the back of the upper arm

trich·i·no·sis /ˌtrɪkɨˈnəʊsɨs/ *n* [U] *med* a serious disease which can be caused by eating PORK which has not been thoroughly cooked

tri·chlo·ro·e·thane /ˌtraɪklɔːrəʊˈiːθeɪn/ *n* [U] a poisonous liquid chemical compound, used as a SOLVENT

tri·chol·o·gy /trɪˈkɒlədʒi‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the study and treatment of disorders of hair growth —**-gist** *n*

trick[1] /trɪk/ *n* **1** a clever set of actions done to entertain people, esp. by using skill to confuse them: *He performed some clever magic tricks.* | *No one could work out how I did the card tricks.* —compare JOKE[1] (1) **2** a clever act or plan meant to deceive or cheat someone: *He got the money by a trick.* | (fig.) *I thought I saw a ghost, but perhaps it was only* **a trick of the light.** (=a deceiving appearance) —see also DIRTY TRICK **3** a troublesome but playful act; PRANK: *The children loved* **playing tricks on** *their teacher.* —compare PRACTICAL JOKE **4** a quick or clever way to do something or get a desired result; special skill or KNACK: *John taught me the trick of pouring wine without spilling any.* | *There's a trick to opening this lock.* | (*infml*) *Don't make fun of your grandfather just because he's old; he could* **teach you a trick or two.** (=he knows more than you do) | *If you want to start your own car business you should ask his advice – he knows all the* **tricks of the trade.** | *She used* **every trick in the book** *to pull off the deal.* **5** the cards played or won in one ROUND of a game of cards —see CARDS (USAGE) **6** [(**of**)] a strange or typical habit: *He has a trick of pulling at his earlobe when he speaks to you.* **7** *AmE sl* **a** sex with a PROSTITUTE **b** a one-time sexual partner, esp. of a PROSTITUTE **8 do the trick** *infml* to fulfil one's purpose or intention; do what is needed: *This medicine ought to do the trick.* (=cure the illness) **9 How's tricks?** *infml* (used as a greeting) How are you? **10 not/never miss a trick** *infml* to know exactly what is happening, and never fail to take advantage of a favourable situation —see also CONFIDENCE TRICK, HAT TRICK

trick[2] *adj* [A] **1** made for playing tricks: *a trick spoon that melts in hot liquid* **2** full of intentionally hidden and unexpected difficulties: *That's not fair; it was a* **trick question! 3** *AmE* weak and likely to give way unexpectedly: *a trick knee*

trick[3] *v* **1** [T (**into**)] to deceive: *The police tricked him into making a confession.* **2** [I (with)] *AmE sl* to find a sexual partner

trick sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out/up** *phr v* [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*, esp. **in**] *fml or lit* to dress in bright or decorative things: *tricked out in ribbons|in a gaudy outfit*

trick·e·ry /ˈtrɪkəri/ *n* [U] the use of tricks to deceive or cheat

trick·le[1] /ˈtrɪkəl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to flow in drops or in a thin stream: *Blood|a tear trickled slowly down his cheek.* | (fig.) *The children trickled into the classroom.* —compare STREAM

trickle down *phr v* [I (to)] (usu. of money) to slowly reach people at the bottom of a HIERARCHY after being put in at the top: *Their intention is that the tax cuts for the rich will trickle down to the poor.* —see also TRICKLE-DOWN EFFECT

trickle[2] *n* [S (**of**)] a thin slow flow or movement: *The number of refugees from the area has now slowed to a trickle.*

trickle charg·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n BrE* an apparatus for charging a BATTERY, esp. one on a motor vehicle, at a steady slow rate

trickle-down ef·fect /ˌ· ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* the process by which some ECONOMISTS believe that additional money or other capital in the hands of a few people at the top of an organization will later reach people at the bottom: *The improved economy should have a* **trickle-down effect** *on the unemployed.*

trick or treat /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n, interj* (in the US) a children's practice of going to people's houses on HALLOWE'EN and asking for TREATS under threat of playing TRICKS on people who refuse —**trick-or-treat** *v* [I] : *to go trick-or-treating*

trick·ster /ˈtrɪkstəʳ/ *n* a person who deceives or cheats people

trick·y /ˈtrɪki/ *adj* **1** (of a situation, piece of work, etc.) difficult to handle or deal with; full of hidden or unexpected difficulties: *I'm in a rather tricky position; can you help me out?* | *a tricky question* | *This problem may prove rather tricky for the government.* **2** deceitful; clever in cheating; CRAFTY: *Be careful how you deal with him; he's a* **tricky customer.** (=person) —**-iness** *n* [U]

tri·col·our *BrE* ‖ **-or** *AmE* /ˈtrɪkələʳ‖ˈtraɪˌkʌlər/ *n* **1** [*the*] (*usu. cap.*) the national flag of France **2** [C] a flag with three equal bands of different colours

tri·cy·cle /ˈtraɪsɪkəl/ *n* a bicycle with three wheels, two at the back and one at the front, used esp. by small children

tri·dent /ˈtraɪdənt/ *n* a forklike instrument or ancient weapon with three points

Trident a type of American MISSILE which is fired from a SUBMARINE. Each Trident can send several explosive charges to different places. There has been considerable argument in Britain as to whether the country should buy Tridents.

tried[1] /traɪd/ *past tense & participle of* TRY[1]

tried[2] *adj* [*no comp.*] found to be good or trustworthy by experience or testing: *a* **tried and tested** *method* | *He's a* **tried and true** *friend.*

tri·en·ni·al /traɪˈeniəl/ *adj* done or happening every three years

tri·er /ˈtraɪəʳ/ *n apprec* a person who tries hard; someone who always does their best, even if they do not often succeed

trif·fid /ˈtrɪfɨd/ *n* an imaginary plant which grows to a great size, moves about, and attacks people (from the NOVEL *The Day of the Triffids* by John Wyndham)

tri·fle[1] /ˈtraɪfəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] a British dish made of plain cakes set in fruit and jelly covered with cream and/or CUSTARD **2** [C] *fml* an article or thing of little value or slight importance; matter of slight importance: *I don't*

know why you waste your money/time on such trifles. **3 a trifle** *fml* to some degree; rather: *I'm a trifle annoyed about it.*

trifle[2] *v*

trifle with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to treat without the necessary seriousness or respect: *The boss is not a person to be trifled with.*

tri·fling /ˈtraɪflɪŋ/ *adj fml* of slight importance or little value; INSIGNIFICANT: *It only cost a trifling sum.* | *a trifling matter*

trig·ger[1] /ˈtrɪgəʳ/ *n* a small piece of metal pressed by the finger to fire a gun: *to pull the trigger* —see also HAIR TRIGGER, and see picture at GUN

trigger[2] *v* [T (OFF)] to start or cause (esp. a number of events, often of an undesirable kind, that happen one after the other): *Large price increases could trigger demands for even larger wage increases.* | *The successful hijacking triggered a spate of terrorist activity.*

trigger-hap·py /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *adj* **1** too ready to shoot; ready to shoot for the slightest reason **2** not responsible enough, esp. in matters which could lead to war; too ready to use violent methods: *a trigger-happy government that ordered the shooting of anyone who entered their territory*

trig·o·nom·e·try /ˌtrɪgəˈnɒmɨtri‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* [U] the branch of MATHEMATICS that deals with the relationship between the sides and angles of TRIANGLES

trig point /ˈtrɪg pɔɪnt/ *n infml for* TRIANGULATION STATION

trike /traɪk/ *n infml for* TRICYCLE

tril·by /ˈtrɪlbi/ also **trilby hat** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n esp. BrE* a man's soft FELT hat with a fold in the top

tri·lin·gual /ˌtraɪˈlɪŋgwəl◂/ *adj* of, using, or able to speak three languages: *a trilingual secretary* —~**ly** *adv*

trill[1] /trɪl/ *n* **1** *tech* the rapid repeating of two musical notes a TONE apart in turn **2** a sound or number of repeated sounds like this, esp. as made by a bird **3** *tech* a speech sound like this, such as that produced by the point of the tongue against the part of the mouth just behind the upper front teeth

trill[2] *v* [I;T] to sing, play, or pronounce with a trill: *The birds were trilling in the treetops.*

tril·lion /ˈtrɪljən/ *determiner, n, pron* **trillion** *or* **trillions** **1** (the number) one million million; 1,000,000,000,000; 10^{12} **2** [(**of**)] also **trillions** *pl.*— *infml* a very large number; lots —~**th** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

tri·lo·bite /ˈtraɪləbaɪt/ *n* a small sea creature of very long ago, whose remains are found in large numbers in some areas

tril·o·gy /ˈtrɪlədʒi/ *n* a group of three related books, plays, etc., connected by a shared subject but each complete in itself: *It's the second part of/the second play in a trilogy.*

trim[1] /trɪm/ *v* **-mm-** [T] **1** [(OFF)] to make neat, even, or tidy by cutting or removing unwanted parts: *I'm having my hair trimmed tomorrow.* | *Trim off the loose threads.* | *a neatly-trimmed beard* **2** [(**with**)] to decorate, esp. round the edges: *a jacket trimmed with fur* **3** to reduce, esp. by removing what is unnecessary: *You must trim your costs if you want to increase your profits.* **4** to move (a sail) into the correct position so that the boat will sail well **5 trim one's sails** to spend less money, because one can afford less —~**mer** *n* : *a hedge trimmer*

trim[2] *n* **1** [S] an act of cutting: *My beard needs a trim.* **2** [U] *infml* proper condition; readiness or fitness: *The team was in (good) trim for the match.* **3** [U] *tech* the degree to which an aircraft or spacecraft is level in relation to a fixed point, such as the horizon **4** [S;U] additional decoration, esp. on a car: *Her new sports car was dark blue with a white trim.*

trim[3] *adj* **-mm-** tidy; in good order; pleasingly neat in appearance: *trim gardens* | *a trim figure* —~**ly** *adv*

tri·ma·ran /ˈtraɪməræn/ *n* a small sailing boat, used for pleasure or racing, that is made of three separate but connected boatlike parts (HULLS) side by side

tri·mes·ter /trɪˈmestəʳ‖traɪ-/ *n AmE* **1** any of three equal TERMS at a school or college **2** a period of three or about three months, esp. of a woman's PREGNANCY: *a first-trimester miscarriage*

trim·ming /ˈtrɪmɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] **1** a decoration or pleasant addition: *We had roast duck* **with all the trimmings.** (=vegetables, potatoes, SAUCE, etc.) **2** a piece cut off from a larger piece: *hedge trimmings*

Trin·i·dad and To·ba·go /ˌtrɪnɨdæd ənd təˈbeɪgəʊ/ a country in the West Indies, N of Venezuela, made up of the islands of Trinidad and Tobago; capital Port of Spain; population 1,263,000 (1989)

tri·ni·tro·tol·u·ene /ˌtraɪnaɪtrəʊˈtɒlju-iːn‖-ˈtɑː-/ *n* [U] see TNT

trin·i·ty /ˈtrɪnɨti/ *n fml or lit* a group of three

Trinity [*the*] (in the Christian religion) the union of the three forms of God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) as one God

Trinity House /ˌ··· ˈ·/ a British authority responsible for providing LIGHTHOUSES and LIGHTSHIPS around the coast of Britain, and also for licensing (LICENSE) pilots (=people who guide ships into ports etc.)

Trinity term /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [C;U] (in Britain) the summer TERM at some schools and universities

trin·ket /ˈtrɪŋkɨt/ *n* a piece of jewellery or other small decorative article of fairly low value

tri·o /ˈtriːəʊ/ *n* **-os** **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of three people or things: *The committee is headed by a trio of ministers.* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] three singers or musicians performing together: *a jazz trio* **3** a piece of music for three performers —compare DUET, QUARTET

trip[1] /trɪp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [I (**over**);T (UP)] **a** to catch one's foot (in or on something) and lose one's balance: *The fisherman tripped over a root and fell into the river.* **b** to cause (someone) to do this: *The boy put his foot out to trip the teacher up.* **2** [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) make a mistake: *This lawyer always tries to trip witnesses up by asking confusing questions.* —compare CATCH **out** **3** [I+*adv/prep*] *esp. lit* to move or dance with quick light steps: *The little girl tripped down the path.* | (fig.) *It's an interesting poem, but it hardly* **trips off the tongue.** (=it is difficult to say aloud) —see also TRIPPINGLY **4** [T] to cause (a SWITCH, spring, etc.) to operate: *A thief climbing in tripped the wire and set the alarm ringing.* **5** [I (OUT)] *sl* to be under the influence of a mind-changing drug such as LSD **6 trip the light fantastic** *pomp or humor* to dance

trip[2] *n* **1** [(**to**)] a journey, esp. a short one for pleasure or for a particular purpose: *We went on a bus trip/a boat trip.* | *I forgot to buy milk so I had to make another trip to the shops.* | *I think I'll take a trip to see him.* | *a* **business trip** *to Japan* | *a day trip to France* —see also DAY TRIP, ROUND TRIP, TRIPPER; see TRAVEL[2] (USAGE) **2** a fall; act of tripping **3** *sl* a period under the influence of a mind-changing drug such as LSD: *a bad trip* | (fig., *derog*) *He's on a real power trip now that he's in charge.* (=he is enjoying his power very much) —see also EGO TRIP **4** *rare* a mistake: *a trip of the tongue*

tri·par·tite /traɪˈpɑːtaɪt‖-ˈpɑːr-/ *adj fml* **1** having three parts: *a tripartite leaf* **2** shared by three people, organizations, etc.: *a tripartite agreement* —compare BIPARTITE

tripe /traɪp/ *n* [U] **1** the rubbery wall of the stomach of the cow eaten as food: *boiled tripe and onions* **2** *infml* worthless or stupid talk, ideas, writing, etc.: *Why do you read such tripe?*

trip·le[1] /ˈtrɪpəl/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) grow to three times the amount or number: *The firm tripled its profits last year.* **2** (in BASEBALL) to hit a TRIPLE[3]

triple[2] *adj* **1** having three parts or members **2** three times repeated: *He was convicted of a triple murder.* (=of killing three people at the same time)

triple[3] *n* (in BASEBALL) a hit that allows the BATTER to reach THIRD BASE safely

triple A /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n AmE* the spoken form of AAA, the American Automobile Association: *"Call triple A!"*

Triple Crown /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] a title for winning all three of a set of important events in various sports, esp. winning **a** (in British horse-racing) the St Leger, the Derby, and the Two Thousand Guineas **b** (in American horse-racing) the Preakness, the Belmont Stakes, and the Kentucky Derby or **c** (in Rugby Union) beating all three of the other home countries

triple jump /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [*the*+S] an ATHLETICS event in which the competitors take off and land on one foot, follow it by jumping on one foot and landing on the other, and finish with a jump from both feet

trip·let /ˈtrɪplɨt/ *n* **1** [*usu. pl.*] any of three children born of the same mother at the same time **2** a group of three lines in a poem —compare COUPLET

trip·lex[1] /ˈtrɪpleks‖ˈtrɪ-, ˈtraɪ-/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) *BrE tdmk* a special safety glass made of a sheet of transparent plastic between two sheets of glass, esp. used in car windows

triplex[2] *n, adj AmE* (a unit, esp. a flat) having rooms on three floors of a building: *a triplex apartment* —compare DUPLEX

trip·li·cate[1] /ˈtrɪplɪkɪt/ *adj* consisting of or existing in three parts that are exactly alike: *triplicate copies of the contract*

triplicate[2] *n* **in triplicate** in three copies, one of which is the original: *All our forms have to be filled out in triplicate.*

tri·pod /ˈtraɪpɒd‖-pɑːd/ *n* a three-legged support, e.g. for a camera: *to set up a tripod* —see picture at LABORATORY

Trip·ol·i /ˈtrɪpəli/ a city and port in NW Libya, the capital of Libya and its largest industrial centre

tri·pos /ˈtraɪpɒs‖-pɑːs/ *n* (a course of study for) the set of examinations for the BA degree at Cambridge University

trip·per /ˈtrɪpəʳ/ *n esp. BrE, often derog* a person on a pleasure trip, esp. one lasting only one day: *In summer, the seaside towns are full of* **day trippers.**

trip·ping·ly /ˈtrɪpɪŋli/ *adv esp. lit* lightly and easily

trip·tych /ˈtrɪptɪk/ *n tech* a picture made in three parts so that the side ones can be folded inwards over the middle one —compare DIPTYCH

trip·wire /ˈtrɪpˌwaɪəʳ/ *n* a wire stretched across the ground, that causes a trap, explosive, etc., to work if a person or animal catches it with their foot

tri·reme /ˈtraɪriːm/ *n* an ancient warship with three rows of OARS on each side

tri·sect /traɪˈsekt/ *v* [T] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) to divide into three esp. equal parts

Tris·tan da Cun·ha /ˌtrɪstən də ˈkuːnə, -njə/ a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean, between South Africa and South America. The people living there had to be taken away when a VOLCANO erupted (ERUPT) in 1961, but were able to return two years later.

Tris·tram and I·sol·de /ˌtrɪstrəm ənd ɪˈzɒldə‖-ɪˈsəʊld/ also **Tris·tan and I·seult** /ˌtrɪstən ənd ɪˈsuːlt/ the characters, Tristram (a man) and Isolde (a woman) in an old love story, written around AD 1185

Tris·tram Shan·dy /ˌtrɪstrəm ˈʃændi/ a character in a book by Laurence Sterne, considered to be one of the earliest NOVELS written in English. The book describes the humorous adventures of a group of amusing characters including Tristram Shandy himself.

trite /traɪt/ *adj derog* (of a remark, idea, etc.) used or said too often to be interesting or meaningful; unoriginal and insincere: *All the messages of condolence in these cards sound really trite.* | *At the risk of sounding trite, I wish you were here.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

tri·umph[1] /ˈtraɪəmf/ *n* **1** [C (**over**)] a complete victory or success: *His new film is an absolute triumph.* | *The story of her triumph over cancer is very moving.* | *They held a party to celebrate their election triumph.* **2** [U] the joy or satisfaction caused by this: *shouts of triumph* | *The victorious army returned in triumph.* **3** [C] (in ancient Rome) a procession in honour of a victorious general

triumph[2] *v* [I (**over**)] to gain victory or success, esp. in dealing with a very difficult situation or opponent; PREVAIL: *to triumph over adversity|over a disabling illness*

Triumph *n* **1** a former English type of motor cycle, famous for its speed **2** a former English type of car, which was quite expensive and considered to be of good quality

tri·um·phal /traɪˈʌmfəl/ *adj* of or marking a triumph: *a triumphal arch|procession*

tri·um·phant /traɪˈʌmfənt/ *adj* **1** victorious or successful: *a triumphant army* **2** taking great pride and joy in one's success or victory: *The victorious general made a triumphant return.* —~**ly** *adv*: *"I've done it!" he exclaimed triumphantly.*

tri·um·vir·ate /traɪˈʌmvɪrɪt/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a group of three people together governing a country, esp. in ancient Rome **2** *fml* a group of three, esp. one regarded by others as threatening

triv·et /ˈtrɪvɪt/ *n* **1** a three-legged stand for holding a pot over a fire **2** a metal stand, usu. with short legs, placed under a hot pot or dish to protect a surface

triv·i·a /ˈtrɪviə/ *n* [P] **1** unimportant or useless matters or details; TRIFLES[1] (2) **2** detailed facts connected with current or past events, famous people, etc.: *sports trivia* | *Here's a good trivia question for you: Who played Mrs Danvers in "Rebecca"?*

triv·i·al /ˈtrɪviəl/ *adj* **1** *usu. derog* of little worth or importance; INSIGNIFICANT: *Why do you get angry over such trivial matters?* | *It cost a trivial sum.* (=a small amount) **2** ordinary: *trivial everyday duties* —~**ly** *adv*

triv·i·al·i·ty /ˌtrɪviˈælɪti/ *n usu. derog* **1** [C] something trivial **2** [U] the state of being trivial

triv·i·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈtrɪviəlaɪz/ *v* [T] to treat (something) as if it is trivial; reduce to unimportance: *These newspapers' sensational treatment of the news trivializes it.* —**-ization** /ˌtrɪviəlaɪˈzeɪʃən ‖ -lə-/ *n*

Trivial Pur·suit /ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ *tdmk* a game in which players have to answer questions on different subjects, such as music and sport. This game was very fashionable in the mid-1980s.

TRO /ˌtiː ɑːr ˈəʊ/ *n abbrev. for:* TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Troc·a·de·ro /ˌtrɒkəˈdɪərəʊ‖ˌtrɑːkəˈde-/ [*the*] a place in London, near Piccadilly Circus, with many shops, EXHIBITIONS, and other forms of entertainment

tro·chee /ˈtrəʊkiː/ *n tech* a measure of poetry consisting of one strong (or long) beat followed by one weak (or short) beat, as in "father" —compare IAMB —**-chaic** *adj*

trod /trɒd‖trɑːd/ *past tense & participle of* TREAD

trod·den /ˈtrɒdn‖ˈtrɑːdn/ *past participle of* TREAD

trog·lo·dyte /ˈtrɒglədaɪt‖ˈtrɑːg-/ *n* a person who lives in a CAVE, esp. in PREHISTORIC (=very ancient) times

troi·ka /ˈtrɔɪkə/ *n* **1** a Russian carriage drawn by a team of three horses side by side **2** a group of three people working together, esp. in government; TRIUMVIRATE

Troi·lus and Cres·si·da /ˌtrɔɪləs ənd ˈkresɪdə/ a play by William Shakespeare about the Trojan War

Tro·jan[1] /ˈtrəʊdʒən/ *n* **1** a person living in the ancient city of Troy **2 work like a Trojan** *apprec* to work very hard: *We worked like Trojans to get the job finished on time.*

Trojan[2] *n AmE tdmk* a type of CONDOM

Trojan horse /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Wooden Horse of Troy** — *n* something or someone that attacks or weakens something secretly from within. The expression comes from the wooden horse with Greek soldiers hiding inside, used in the Trojan War. —see colour picture on page 423

Trojan War /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] a war which is said to have been fought between the Greeks and the Trojans because the Trojan prince Paris had carried off Helen, wife of Menelaus, a Greek king. The war was won by a trick in which Greek soldiers, hidden inside a wooden model of a horse, were taken into Troy by the Trojans who thought that the horse was a gift. Homer describes the Trojan War in his book the *Iliad*.

troll[1] /trəʊl/ *n* (in ancient Scandinavian stories) any of a race of beings with special powers, variously described as friendly or evil, as very small or very large, and as living in CAVES or hills

troll[2] /trɒl‖trəʊl/ *v* [I (**for**)] *rare* to try to catch fish by pulling a line through the water behind a slow-moving boat

trol·ley /ˈtrɒli‖ˈtrɑːli/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* ‖ **cart** *AmE*— a low two-wheeled or four-wheeled cart or vehicle, esp. one pushed by hand: *a shopping trolley* **2** *BrE* ‖ **cart** *AmE*— a small table on very small wheels, from which food and drinks are served: *a tea trolley* **3** a trolleybus **4** *AmE for* TRAM —see picture at SAN FRANCISCO **5 off one's trolley** *infml, often humor* mad

trol·ley·bus /ˈtrɒlibʌs‖ˈtrɑː-/ *n* a bus that draws power from a pair of electric wires running above it

trol·lop /ˈtrɒləp‖ˈtrɑː-/ *n old-fash derog* **1** a very untidy woman or girl **2** a sexually immoral woman or girl

Trol·lope /ˈtrɒləp‖ˈtrɑː-/, **Anthony** (1815–82) an English writer whose NOVELS, such as *Barchester Towers*, are famous for their description of VICTORIAN England

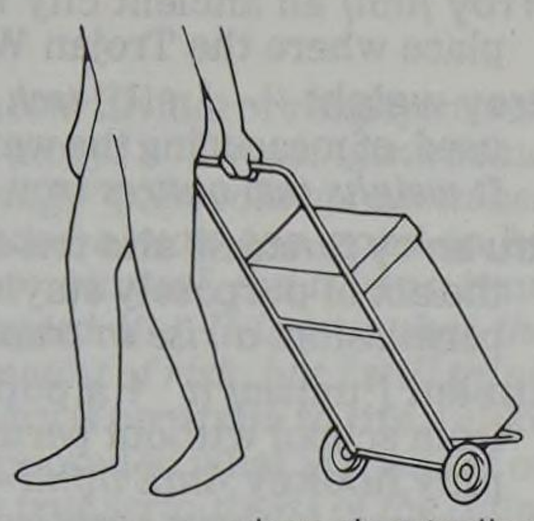
trom·bone /trɒmˈbəʊn‖trɑːm-/ *n* a large brass musical instrument with a long sliding tube that is made longer or shorter to vary the note —see picture at BRASS

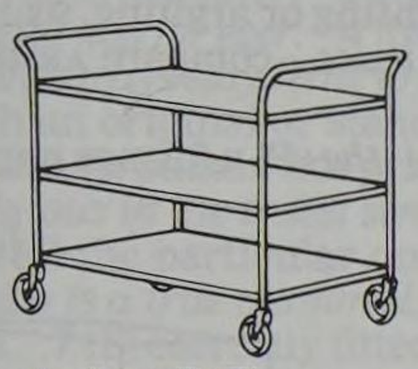
trom·bon·ist /trɒmˈbəʊnɪst‖trɑːm-/ *n* a person who plays a trombone

trolleys



shopping trolley





tea trolley *BrE*/
tea wagon *AmE*



supermarket trolley

troop[1] /truːp/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a group of people or wild animals, esp. when moving: *a troop of monkeys/children* **2** a group of soldiers, esp. CAVALRY (=soldiers who fight on horses) or soldiers in armoured vehicles. Two or more troops make up a SQUADRON. **3** a group of SCOUTS under the guidance of an adult leader —compare TROUPE; see also TROOPS

troop[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to move together in a group: *We all trooped into the meeting.* **2 troop the colour** *BrE* to carry an army flag ceremonially in front of a group of soldiers —see also TROOPING THE COLOUR

troop car·ri·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a ship, aircraft, or vehicle used for carrying large numbers of soldiers

troop·er /ˈtruːpəʳ/ *n* **1** a soldier of the lowest rank in the CAVALRY or in a part of the army that uses armoured vehicles: *He was* **swearing like a trooper.** (=using a lot of offensive language) **2** *AmE* a member of a STATE[1] (4) police force

Trooping the Col·our /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ [*the*] a ceremony held on the British Queen's official birthday in June, when many horse and foot soldiers march across Horse Guards Parade in London carrying their flags and the Queen herself takes the SALUTE[2](3)

troops /truːps/ *n* [P] soldiers: *If the police can't keep order we must send in the troops.* —**troop** *adj* [A]: *monitoring troop movements*

troop·ship /ˈtruːpˌʃɪp/ *n* a ship for carrying a large number of soldiers

trope /trəʊp/ *n tech* (a word or phrase used as) a FIGURE OF SPEECH

tro·phy /ˈtrəʊfi/ *n* **1** a prize given for winning a race, competition, or test of skill, esp. a CUP[1] (4) or PLAQUE: *She presented/awarded the trophy to the winning team.* | *swimming/boxing trophies* **2** something taken or gained after much effort, esp. in war or hunting: *He hung the lion's head on the wall as a trophy.*

trop·ic /ˈtrɒpɪk‖ˈtrɑː-/ *n* either of the two imaginary lines drawn round the world at about 23½° north (**the tropic of Cancer**) and south (**the tropic of Capricorn**) of the EQUATOR —see also TROPICS, and see picture at GLOBE

trop·i·cal /ˈtrɒpɪkəl‖ˈtrɑː-/ *adj* **1** of or found in the tropics: *tropical flowers* | *a tropical climate* | *tropical medicine* (=the study of diseases of the tropics) **2** very hot: *tropical weather* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

trop·ics /ˈtrɒpɪks‖ˈtrɑː-/ *n* [*the*+P] the hot area of the world between the two tropics: *living in the tropics*

Tros·sachs /ˈtrɒsəks, -æks‖ˈtrɑː-/ [*the*] a valley in central Scotland, between Loch Achray and Loch Katrine. The name is also given to a larger area stretching N from Aberfoyle and Loch Ard to Lochs Katrine, Achray, and Venachar.

trot[1] /trɒt‖trɑːt/ *n* **1** [S] the fairly quick movement of a horse in which a front foot and the opposite back foot move as a pair; movement between a walk and a CANTER: *We set off* **at a trot.** **2** [C] a ride at this speed: *I'm going for a trot down the lane.* **3** [S] a fairly fast human speed between a walk and a run; a slow run or quick walk **4** [C] *AmE for* CRIB[1] (4b) **5 have the trots** *infml, usu. humor* to have DIARRHOEA **6 on the trot** *infml* **a** one after another: *She won three races on the trot.* **b** in a state of continuous activity: *I've been on the trot all day at work.*

trot[2] *v* **-tt-** **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move at the speed of a trot: *The horse/The riders came trotting down the lane.* —compare CANTER[2], GALLOP[2] **2** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* (of a person) to move fairly quickly; hurry: *I must be trotting along now or I'll miss the bus.*

trot sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] *infml* to say or write (something already said or heard) in an uninteresting unchanged way: *He trotted out the same old excuses.*

Trot *n infml derog* a Trotskyite

troth /trəʊθ‖trɔːθ, trɑːθ, trəʊθ/ *n old use* **1 by my troth** (used as an expression of strong feeling) **2 in troth** truly; INDEED —see also **plight one's troth** (PLIGHT[2])

Trot·sky /ˈtrɒtski‖ˈtrɑː-/ , **Le·on** /ˈliːɒn‖-ɑːn/ (1879–1940) a Russian leader who took an important part in the REVOLUTION (1) of 1917 which gave birth to the USSR. He wrote a great deal on Communism, and opposed Stalin for power after Lenin's death, but was forced to leave, and after living in several countries, settled in Mexico City where he was later murdered.

Trot·sky·ist /ˈtrɒtskiɨst‖ˈtrɑːt-/ also **Trot·sky·ite** /-skiaɪt/ *derog,* **Trot** *derog sl– adj, n* (of or being) a person who favours the political principles of Leon Trotsky, esp. his belief in the need for a working class seizure of state power all over the world if SOCIALISM is to be firmly established

trot·ter /ˈtrɒtəʳ‖ˈtrɑː-/ *n* **1** an animal that trots **2** a pig's foot used as food

trou·ba·dour /ˈtruːbədɔːʳ, -dʊəʳ/ *n* a singer and poet who travelled round the noble courts of Italy and Southern France in the 12th and 13th centuries

trou·ble[1] /ˈtrʌbəl/ *n* **1** [C;U (**with**)] (something that causes) difficulty, worry, annoyance, or suffering: *By not dealing with the problem now they are just storing up trouble for the future.* | *Paying the rent is* **the least of my troubles** *at present.* (=I have other more serious problems to worry about) | *We're having a bit of trouble with the baby – he won't sleep at night.* [+*v-ing*] *I never have any trouble getting the car started.* | **The trouble with** *this job* (=the thing that is unsatisfactory about it) *is that the pay is too low.* | *I have to pay this bill by Tuesday, but* **the trouble is** (=the problem I face is the fact that) *I don't get my salary until Friday.* **2** [U] a difficult or dangerous position or situation: *The little boy was in trouble so I swam out to save him.* | *If you play with dangerous chemicals like that you're just* **asking for trouble.** (=taking a great risk) | *The new company did well at first, but then* **ran into trouble.** (=got into difficulties) **3** [U (**with**)] a position in which one is blamed for doing wrong or thought to have done wrong: *My son's always* **getting into trouble** *with the police.* | *She told a lie rather than get her friend into trouble.* **4** [S;U] (something that causes) more than usual work or effort; inconvenience: *I hope we haven't* **put you to any trouble.** | *"We must thank you for* **taking the trouble to** *cook* (=giving yourself the work of cooking) *us a meal." "It was no trouble at all."* | *You could use a computer to do the calculations, but it might be* **more trouble than it's worth.** (=getting the results may need more effort than they are worth) **5** [U] also **troubles** *pl.*– (an occasion of) political or social disorder: *There's been a lot of trouble in that country in the past year.* | *The trouble started when the police tried to break up the demonstration.* —see also TROUBLES **6** [U (**with**)] failure to work properly: *There seems to be some trouble with the central heating system.* | *The car's got some sort of engine trouble again.* | *I've got heart trouble* (=pain or illness), *but it's nothing serious.* **7** [C (**with**)] a fault; a bad or annoying quality: *The trouble with you is that you don't listen!* | *The trouble with your idea is that it creates as many problems as it solves.* **8 get a woman into trouble** *old-fash euph* to make a woman PREGNANT —see also TEETHING TROUBLES

trouble[2] *v* **1** [T] *rather fml* to make (someone) anxious, nervous, worried, etc.: *You look troubled; is anything worrying you?* | *troubling news* | (fig.) *a troubled company* (=one which is in financial difficulties) **2** [T (**for**)] (esp. in polite requests) to cause inconvenience to (someone): *I'm sorry to trouble you, but can you tell me the way to the station?* | *May I trouble you for the salt?* (=please pass it to me) [+*obj*+*to-* *v*] *Can I trouble you to close the door?* (=please close it) **3** [I (**about**) *usu. in questions and negatives*] to cause inconvenience to oneself: *Don't trouble about the door; I'll close it.* [+*to-v*] *Don't trouble to write when I'm away.* **4** [T] to cause (someone) pain or suffering: *He's been troubled by a bad back since he was a child.* **5** [T] *esp. lit* to force into irregular or violent movement; AGITATE: *The wind troubled the surface of the lake.* —see also **fish in troubled waters** (FISH[2] (5))

trouble and strife /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n BrE dial* (RHYMING SLANG for) wife: *Where's your trouble and stife tonight then?*

trouble-free /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* causing no difficulty, worry, or suffering: *She leads a trouble-free existence.* | *We've had two years of trouble-free motoring with that car.*

troub·le·mak·er /ˈtrʌbəlˌmeɪkəʳ/ *n derog* a person who habitually causes trouble, esp. by making others feel discontented

Troub·les /ˈtrʌbəlz/ *n* [*the*+P] a name used esp. by people in Northern Ireland for the political disorder and violence there —see also NORTHERN IRELAND

troub·le·shoot·er /ˈtrʌbəlˌʃuːtəʳ/ *n* **1** a person employed to discover and remove causes of trouble in machines, organizations, etc. **2** *esp. AmE* a guide, often in the form of a printed table, that lists common problems found in a product or activity and ways to deal with them

troub·le·some /ˈtrʌbəlsəm/ *adj* causing trouble or anxiety; worrying or annoying: *a troublesome child|cough*

trouble spot /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a place where esp. political trouble often happens: *a journalist covering the world's trouble spots*

trough /trɒf‖trɔːf/ *n* **1** a long narrow open container, esp. for holding water or food for animals: *a pig's trough* **2** a long narrow hollow area between two waves of the sea: (fig.) *The business cycle is a series of* **peaks and troughs**. (=periods of great activity followed by periods of little activity) **3** *tech* (in METEOROLOGY) a long area of fairly low pressure between two areas of high pressure

trounce /traʊns/ *v* [T] to defeat completely: *We were thoroughly trounced by the opposing team.*

troupe /truːp/ *n* [C (**of**)+*sing./pl. v*] a company (of singers, actors, dancers, etc.) —compare TROOP[1]

troup·er /ˈtruːpəʳ/ *n infml apprec* someone who has worked at the same thing for a long time, esp. in the entertainment business: *a veteran Hollywood trouper*

trou·ser /ˈtraʊzəʳ/ *adj* [A] of trousers: *There's a tear in your trouser leg.* | *a trouser pocket*

trouser press /ˈ·· ·/ *n* an apparatus in which trousers can be kept when they are not being worn, in such a way that the cloth will be kept smooth

trou·sers /ˈtraʊzəz‖-ərz/ ‖ usu. **pants, slacks** *AmE*— *n* [P] an outer garment covering the body from the waist to the ankles, or sometimes to the knees, with a separate part fitting over each leg: *He bought himself some trousers|a pair of trousers.* —compare JEANS, SHORTS; see also **wear the trousers** (WEAR[1]); see PAIR (USAGE), SLACKS (USAGE)

trouser suit /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **pantsuit** *AmE*— *n* a woman's suit consisting of a JACKET and matching trousers, fashionable in the 1970s

trous·seau /ˈtruːsəʊ, truːˈsəʊ/ *n* **-seaux** /səʊz/ *or* **-seaus** the personal possessions, including clothes and articles for the home, that a woman brings with her when she marries

trout /traʊt/ *n* **1** [C;U] (*pl.* **trout** *or* **trouts**) a river (or sometimes sea) fish, used for food **2** [C] (*pl.* **trouts**) *BrE infml derog* an unattractive or annoying old person (esp. in the phrase **old trout**)

trove *n* see TREASURE TROVE

Trow·bridge /ˈtrəʊbrɪdʒ/ a town in SW England where the local government for Wiltshire is based

trow·el /ˈtraʊəl/ *n* **1** a tool with a flat blade for spreading cement, PLASTER, etc. **2** a garden tool like a small spade with a curved blade, for digging small holes, lifting up plants, etc. —see picture at GARDEN

Troy /trɔɪ/ an ancient city in NW Turkey, said to be the place where the Trojan War was fought

troy weight /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *tech* a British system, now rarely used, of measuring the weight of gold, silver, and jewels: *It weighs two ounces troy.* —compare AVOIRDUPOIS

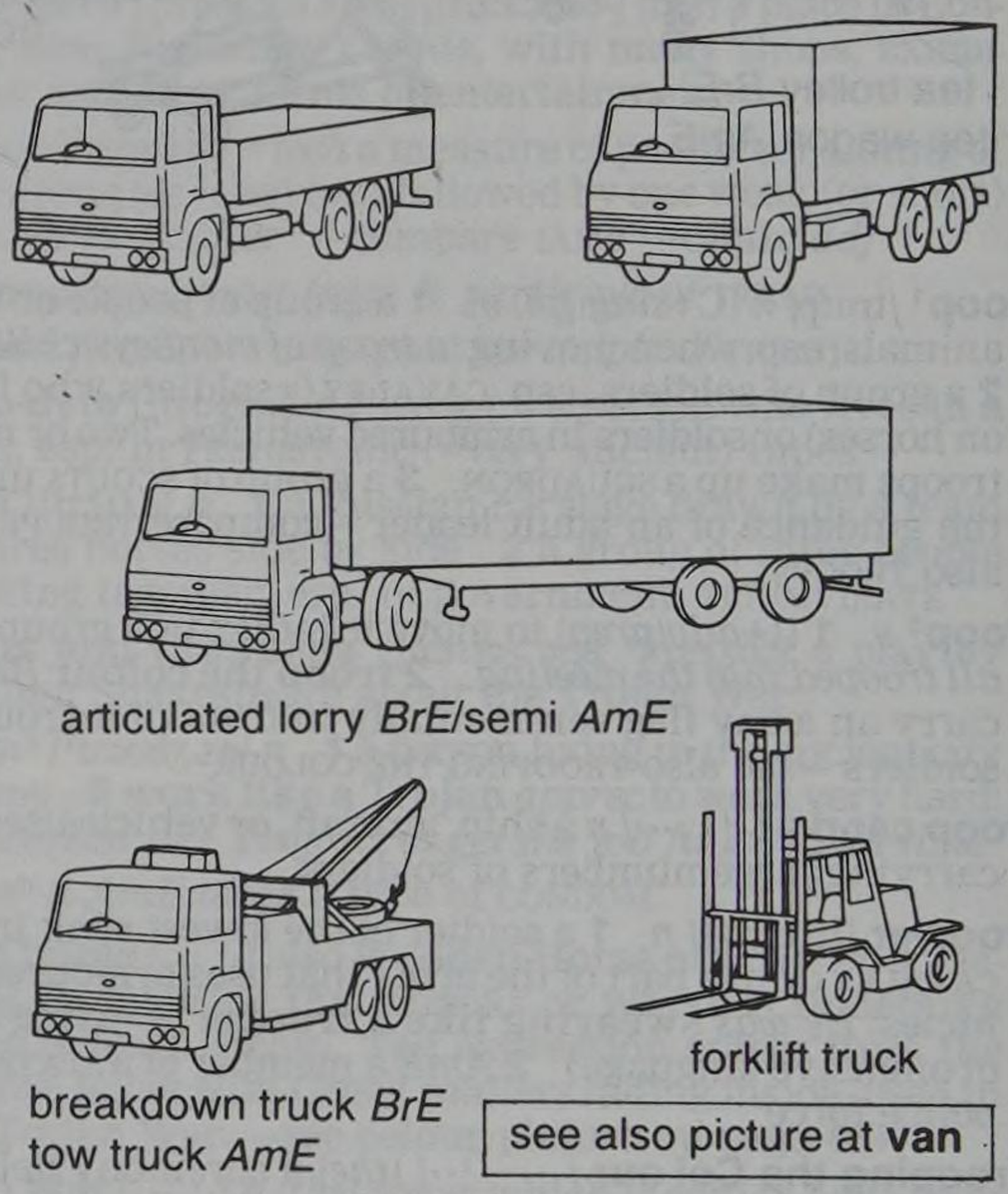
tru·an·cy /ˈtruːənsi/ also **tru·ant·ing** *BrE* /ˈtruːəntɪŋ/— *n* [U] the act of purposely staying away from school without permission: *a rise in truancy figures*

tru·ant /ˈtruːənt/ *n* **1** a pupil who purposely stays away from school without permission **2 play truant** ‖ also **play hookey** *AmE infml*— to stay away from school on purpose, without permission

truce /truːs/ *n* (an agreement between enemies or opponents for) the stopping of fighting or arguing, usu. for a short time: *to declare|call a truce* —compare ARMISTICE, CEASE-FIRE

Tru·cial States /ˌtruːʃəl ˈsteɪts/ [*the*+P] a former name for the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

trucks



see also picture at **van**

truck[1] /trʌk/ *n* **1** also **lorry** *BrE*— a large motor vehicle for carrying goods in large quantities: *to load a truck* —compare VAN **2** *BrE* ‖ **car** *AmE*— an open railway vehicle for carrying goods: *coal trucks* **3** a simple vehicle for carrying goods, pulled or pushed by hand

truck[2] *n* [U] **1** *AmE* vegetables or fruit grown for sale; PRODUCE[2] **2 have no truck with** to intentionally avoid dealing with, esp. having any business or social connections with

truck[3] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] *esp. AmE* **1** to carry by truck **2** *infml* move or go, esp. without difficulty: *trucking along at 70 miles an hour* | *It's late, we'd better* **get trucking.** (=leave)

truck·er /ˈtrʌkəʳ/ also **truck·man** /ˈtrʌkmən/— *n AmE* a truck driver

truck farm /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* MARKET GARDEN

truck·ing /ˈtrʌkɪŋ/ *n* [U] *AmE* the business of carrying goods on motor vehicles

truck·le /ˈtrʌkəl/ *v*

truckle to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *old-fash derog* to be weakly obedient towards

truckle bed /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **trundle bed** *AmE*— *n* a low bed, usu. on small wheels, that can be slid under a larger bed

truck·load /ˈtrʌkləʊd/ *n* [(**of**)] the amount that fills a truck

truck stop /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* TRANSPORT CAFE

truc·u·lent /ˈtrʌkjʊlənt/ *adj* always willing to quarrel or attack; bad-tempered —**~ly** *adv* —**-lence** *n* [U]

Tru·deau /ˈtruːdəʊ ‖ truːˈdəʊ/, **Pi·erre** /piˈeəʳ/ (1919–) a Canadian politician who was elected leader of the Canadian Liberal party in 1968 and was PRIME MINISTER twice (1968–79 and 1980–84)

trudge[1] /trʌdʒ/ *v* [I+*adv*/*prep*] to walk with heavy steps, slowly and with effort: *The old man trudged home through the deep snow.*

trudge[2] *n* a long tiring walk

true[1] /truː/ *adj* **1** in accordance with fact or reality: *a true story* | *Is it true you're going away?* | *"That singer's beautiful." "True, but she can't sing."* | *She told me about her amazing new job – it sounded almost* **too good to be true.** | *His excuse was rather unusual, but it* **rang true** (=sounded true) *and I accepted it.* | *It is true that the project involves a certain amount of risk, but I still think we should go ahead.* | *The story is very* **true to life.** (=like real life) **2** [A] actual, as opposed to what is thought or claimed: *I didn't realize the true seriousness of the country's problems until I went there myself.* | *Her true motives only emerged later.* **3** real; not false; GENUINE: *True love should last for ever.* **4** [(**to**)] faithful; loyal: *a true friend* | *John always stays true to his principles.* **5** in accordance with an original or standard; proper, correct, or exact: *I think the painter has produced a very true likeness.* | *He's religious in the truest sense of the word.* **6** [A] *tech* having all the particular qualities typical of its class: *The whale is a true mammal, even though it may look like a fish.* **7** [F] correctly fitted, placed, or formed: *If the door's not exactly true it won't close properly.* **8 come true** to happen just as was wished, expected, or dreamt: *When I won all that money it was as if all my dreams had come true.* **9 true to form/type** behaving or acting (esp. badly) just as one would expect –see also TRULY, TRUTH

true[2] *adv* **1** without going to one side or the other; exactly: *The arrow flew* **straight and true** *into its target.* **2** *tech* without varying from type: *These sheep will breed true.* **3** *old use* in a true manner; truthfully

true[3] *n* **out of true** not having the exact position or correct shape or balance

true-blue /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* **1** completely loyal **2** *BrE* completely faithful to the principles of the CONSERVATIVES: *a true-blue Tory*

true·born /ˌtruːˈbɔːn‖-bɔːrn◂/ *adj lit apprec* actually so by birth: *a trueborn Scot*

True Con·fes·sions /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ a magazine full of supposedly true stories about people's problems in love, marriage, and relationships, often told in a rather sensational manner. It is thought to be typical of a number of magazines of its kind: *Her private life is right out of "True Confessions".*

true·heart·ed /ˌtruːˈhɑːtɪd◂‖-ˈhɑːr-/ *adj lit apprec* faithful; loyal

true-life /ˌ· ˈ· ◂/ *adj* [A] based on fact: *a true-life adventure story*

true·love /ˈtruːlʌv/ *n lit or poet* the person one loves; SWEETHEART

true north /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] north as it appears on maps, calculated in relation to the AXIS (centre line) of the Earth rather than the north MAGNETIC POLE

Truf·faut /ˈtrʊfəʊ‖truːˈfəʊ/, **Fran·çois** /ˈfrɒnswɑː‖frɑːnˈswɑː/ (1932–84) a French film director whose films include *Jules et Jim* and *Day for Night*

truf·fle /ˈtrʌfəl/ *n* **1** a fleshy blackish or light brown FUNGUS that grows underground and is a rare and expensive food **2** a rich soft creamy sweet made with chocolate: *a rum truffle*

trug /trʌg/ *n BrE rare* a broad flattish basket used in gardens to carry flowers, tools, etc.

tru·is·m /ˈtruːɪzəm/ *n* a statement that is clearly true, esp. one that is too plain to need mentioning

tru·ly /ˈtruːli/ *adv* **1** exactly; in accordance with the truth: *A spider cannot truly be described as an insect.* **2** really: *There was a truly beautiful view from the window.* **3** *fml* sincerely: *I am truly grateful for all your help.* | *He is truly sorry.* **4 Yours truly** *esp. AmE* (used at the end of a business letter, just before the signature) –see YOURS (USAGE) –see also **well and truly** (WELL[1])

Tru·man /ˈtruːmən/ , **Harry S** (1884–1972) an American Democratic politician who was the 33rd President of the US (1945–53). He gave the authority for the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, set up the Marshall Plan, and took the US into the Korean War. Truman is also remembered for having a sign on his desk saying "The Buck Stops Here" (=the final responsibility for making a decision is mine).

trump[1] /trʌmp/ *n* **1** (in card games) any card of a SUIT chosen to be of higher rank than the other three suits: *I had to play a trump to win the trick.* **2 no trump** (in the game of BRIDGE[3]) an offer or attempt to play without any particular SUIT[1] (2) as TRUMPS **3** *AmE for* TRUMPS

trump[2] *v* [T] to beat (a card) or win (a TRICK[1] (5)) by playing a trump

trump sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to invent (a false reason, charge, etc.) in order to harm someone: *He was sent to prison on* **a trumped-up charge.**

Trump, Don·ald /ˈdɒnəld‖ˈdɑː-/ (1946–) a wealthy American businessman who owns **Trump Tower**, a large office building

trump card /ˈ· ·/ also **master card**– *n* a trump: (fig.) *The government* **has/holds a trump card** *in the negotiations,* (=a clear and unquestionable advantage that will help it to win) *since it controls the finances.* | (fig.) *Then the defence* **played its trump card** *and called a surprise witness who had seen the prisoner somewhere else at the time of the robbery.*

trump·e·ry /ˈtrʌmpəri/ *adj* [A] *old-fash lit* **1** (of an object) decorative or attractive but of very little value **2** (of an idea, opinion, action, etc.) worthless

trum·pet[1] /ˈtrʌmpɪt/ *n* **1** a brass musical instrument consisting of a long metal tube curved round once or twice and widening out at the end, played by blowing –see picture at BRASS **2** the loud cry of an elephant –see also EAR TRUMPET, **blow one's own trumpet** (BLOW[1])

trumpet[2] *v* **1** [I] (of an elephant) to make a loud sound **2** [T] *often derog* to declare or make known loudly: *She's always trumpeting the cleverness of her son.* | *the goverment's much-trumpeted farm subsidy programme*

trum·pet·er /ˈtrʌmpɪtəʳ/ *n* a trumpet player

trumps /trʌmps/ *n* [P] **1** ‖ also **trump** *AmE*– (in card games) a SUIT chosen to be of higher value than the other three suits: *Hearts are trumps.* **2 turn/come up trumps** *infml* to do the right or necessary thing, esp. unexpectedly at the last moment: *The dress rehearsal was dreadful, but they turned up trumps on the night and gave an excellent performance.*

trun·cate /trʌŋˈkeɪt‖ˈtrʌŋkeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml or tech* to shorten (as if) by cutting off the top or end: *a severely truncated debate* –**cation** /trʌŋˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

trun·cheon /ˈtrʌnʃən/ ‖ also **nightstick** *AmE*– *n* a short thick stick carried as a weapon by policemen

trun·dle /ˈtrʌndl/ *v* [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to (cause to) move heavily or awkwardly on wheels: *The fruit seller trundled his cart along the street.*

trundle bed /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* TRUCKLE BED

trunk /trʌŋk/ *n* **1** the thick wooden main stem of a tree **2** a large heavy case or box in which clothes or belongings are stored or packed for travel **3** the very long round nose of an elephant **4** *tech* the human body apart from the head and limbs **5** *AmE for* BOOT[1] (2) –see also TRUNKS and see picture at CAR

trunk call /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE old-fash* a long-distance telephone call

trunk road /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a main road for long-distance travel

trunk route /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a main road or railway line for long-distance travel

trunks /trʌŋks/ *n* [P] SHORTS worn by men for swimming – see PAIR (USAGE)

Tru·ro /ˈtrʊərəʊ/ a town in the SW of England, where the local government for Cornwall is based

truss[1] /trʌs/ *v* [T (UP)] **1** to tie up firmly and roughly with cord, rope, etc.: *The robbers trussed up their victim and left him for dead.* **2** to prepare (a chicken, duck, etc.) for cooking by tying the legs and wings in place

truss[2] *n* **1** a special belt worn to support a HERNIA and to prevent it growing or spreading **2** a frame or structure built to support a roof, bridge, etc.

trust[1] /trʌst/ *n* **1** [U (**in**)] firm belief in the honesty, goodness, worth, etc., of someone or something; confidence; faith: *I don't place any trust in the government's promises.* | *Don't worry about a thing;* **put your trust in** *me.* | *an agreement made on a basis of mutual trust* **2** [C;U] (an arrangement for) the holding and controlling of **a** property or money for the advantage of someone else: *a charitable trust* | *The money will be held in trust for you until you're 21.* **b** care or responsibility: *The children have*

been placed in my trust. | *Our national heritage has been left to us in trust* (=to protect and pass on) *by earlier generations.* | *She's not yet old enough to be employed in* **a position of trust.** (=an important position with serious responsibilities) **3** [C] a group of firms that have combined to reduce competition and control prices to their own advantage —see also ANTITRUST LAW **4 take something on trust** to accept something without proof or close examination: *"How do I know you're telling the truth?" "You'll just have to take it on trust."* —see also UNIT TRUST

trust[2] *v* [T] **1** to believe in the honesty and worth of (someone or something); have confidence in: *"Why did you lend him all that money?" "I trusted him."* | *You can't trust these car salesmen; they'll say anything to sell their cars.* | *I don't trust his judgment.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Can they be trusted to look after the house while we're away?* | *a trusted adviser* | *a* **tried and trusted** *remedy* **2** to depend on; be sure about: *You can't trust the English weather.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *You can't trust the trains to run on time.* | (fig., *humor*) *Trust you to say something embarrassing!* (=you always do) **3** [+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] *fml* to hope, esp. confidently: *I trust you enjoyed yourself.* | *Everything went all right, I trust.*

trust in sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to have faith in; believe in: *We trust in God.*

trust to sthg. *phr v* [T] to depend on: *You trust too much to luck/your memory.*

trust·ee /ˌtrʌsˈtiːˑ/ *n* **1** a person or firm that holds and controls property or money for the advantage of someone else **2** a member of a group appointed to control the affairs of a company, college, or other organization: *a trustee of the National Theatre*

Trustee Sav·ings Bank /ˌ·· ˈ·· ·/ also **TSB**— [*the*] one of the main British banks, formed from a number of locally managed SAVINGS BANKS in 1986, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

trust·ee·ship /trʌsˈtiːʃɪp/ *n* **1** [C;U] the position of trustee **2** [U] government of an area by a country or countries appointed by the United Nations **3** [C] also **trust ter·ri·to·ry** /ˈ· ˌ···/— an area under this form of government

trust·ful /ˈtrʌstfəl/ also **trust·ing** /ˈtrʌstɪŋ/— *adj* (too) ready to trust others: *the trustful nature of a small child* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

trust fund /ˈ· ·/ *n* money belonging to someone but held and controlled for their advantage by a TRUSTEE (1)

trust fund ba·by /ˈ· · ˌ··/ *n AmE sl* a person born wealthy because of money from parents or other relatives

trust·wor·thy /ˈtrʌstˌwɜːðiǁ-ɜːr-/ *adj apprec* worthy of trust; dependable —**-thiness** *n* [U]

trust·y[1] /ˈtrʌsti/ *adj* [A] *old use or humor* that can be trusted; dependable; faithful: *my trusty sword* | *My trusty old car will get us home safely.*

trusty[2] *n* a prisoner given special rights because of good behaviour in prison

truth /truːθ/ *n* **truths** /truːðz, truːθs/ **1** [*the*+U] that which is true; the true facts: *You must always* **tell the truth.** | *He said he stayed away because he was ill, but the truth of the matter is that he didn't want to see you.* **2** [U] the state or quality of being true: *I don't doubt the truth of what you say.* | *Do you think there's any truth in these rumours?* | *There wasn't* **a grain of truth** (=any truth at all) *in what she said.* **3** [U] sincerity; honesty: *There was no truth in his expressions of friendship.* **4** [C] a fact or principle accepted as true or for which proof exists: *the truths of science* | *an indisputable truth* **5 in truth** *fml* in fact; really **6 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing ˈbut the truth** part of the formal speech that people make before they give EVIDENCE in a court of law: *I swear by almighty God that the evidence I shall give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth* **7 truth is stranger than fiction** *saying* things that happen in real life are often more surprising or strange than things that happen in stories **8 truth will out** *saying* the truth about something that has happened will be discovered in the end —see also HALF-TRUTH, HOME TRUTH, MOMENT OF TRUTH, **to tell (you) the truth** (TELL)

Truth, Soj·our·ner /ˈsɒdʒənəʳ ǁ ˈsəʊdʒərnər/ (about 1797–1883) a freed American slave with deep religious beliefs who became an ABOLITIONIST and often spoke in public against slavery

truth drug /ˈ· ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **truth se·rum** /ˈ· ˌ··/ *AmE*— *n* any of various drugs which are supposed to make a person, esp. somebody being questioned about a crime, likely to tell the truth or speak freely

truth·ful /ˈtruːθfəl/ *adj* **1** (of a statement, account, etc.) true: *a truthful account of what happened* **2** (of a person) who habitually tells the truth: *a truthful boy* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

try[1] /traɪ/ *v* **1** [I;T+*to-v*;~~*obj*~~] to make an effort or attempt (to do something): *I don't think I can do it, but I'll try.* | *If you don't succeed the first time, try again.* | *Don't criticize him so much; he's* **trying his best/his hardest.** | *He tried to stand on his head, but he couldn't.* | *The two sides are still trying to reach an agreement.* | *Try to get there on time.* | *I tried hard not to laugh when I saw his new haircut.* **2** [T+*v-ing*] to attempt and do (something) as a possible way of gaining a desired result: *If the car won't start, try pushing it.* —see USAGE **3** [T (OUT)] to test (something) by use, action, and experience, in order to find out about its quality, worth, effect, usefulness, etc.: *Have you tried this new soap?* | *The idea sounds fine, but we need to try it out in practice.* | *Have you ever tried mountain-climbing?* [+*v-ing*] *We tried growing all our own vegetables, but found it was impossible to grow enough for the family.* —see also TRY-OUT **4** [T] to attempt to open (a door, window, etc.): *I think the door's locked, but I'll try it just in case.* **5** [T (**for**)] to examine and judge (a legal case or a person who is thought to be guilty of a crime) in a court of law; put on TRIAL: *They're going to try him for murder.* | *His case will be tried in the High Court.* **6** [T] to put (someone or their nerves, patience, etc.) to a severe test; cause to suffer, esp. with continual small annoyances: *His constant questioning is enough to* **try the patience of a saint!** —see also TRYING **7 try and** *infml* (not used with the verb forms **tried** or **trying**) to try to: *You must try and come to the party.* | *I'll try and telephone you tomorrow.* **8 try one's hand (at)** to make a first attempt (at): *I tried my hand at rollerskating for the first time yesterday.* **9 try something (on/out) for size** *infml* to do or use something for a time to see if it is useful, if one likes it, etc.

▷ USAGE 1 You can make this verb stronger by using *hard*: *He* **tried** *hard/very hard/very hard indeed.* 2 Note the difference between *He* **tried** *to open the door* (=but he couldn't) and *He* **tried** *opening the door* (=he opened it, to see what would happen).◁

try for sthg. *BrE* ‖ **try out for** sthg. *AmE*— *phr v* [T] to make an attempt to get or win; compete for, e.g. by taking part in a test: *She's trying for a scholarship to the university.* | *I'm going to try out for football* (=attempt to get a place in a school team) *next year.* —see also TRY-OUT

try sthg. ↔ **on** *phr v* [T] **1** to put on (a garment, hat, shoes, etc.) to test the fit, examine the appearance, etc. **2 try it on** *BrE infml* to behave in a deceiving or disobedient manner, esp. to discover how much of this behaviour will be allowed —see also TRY-ON

try[2] *n* **1** [(**at**)] an attempt to do something: *Let me have a try (at it).* | *She didn't manage to break the record, but it was a good try.* | *This may not work, but it's* **worth a try.** **2** (in RUGBY) four points won by touching the ball on the ground behind the opposing team's GOAL LINE, giving one the right to try to kick a GOAL

try·ing /ˈtraɪ-ɪŋ/ *adj* difficult, worrying, or annoying: *We've had a lot of problems in the office recently, it's been (a) very trying (time) for all of us.* —see also TRY[1] (6)

try-on /ˈ· ·/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* an attempt to deceive, esp. to see if someone will believe something false: *Ignore his constant references to not having any money; it's just a try-on.* —see also **try it on** (TRY **on**)

try-out *BrE* ‖ **tryout** *AmE* /ˈ· ·/ *n* [S] *infml* a trial or test of fitness for some purpose: *Cheerleading tryouts will be held on Friday afternoon.*

tryp·an·a·some /ˈtrɪpənəsəʊm/ *n* a microscopic creature which lives in the blood of various animals, including humans, and causes illnesses, e.g. SLEEPING SICKNESS

try square /ˈ· ·/ *n* an instrument shaped like a letter L, used for marking out RIGHT ANGLES and testing whether work, esp. woodwork, is square

tryst /trɪst, traɪst/ *n old use or humor* **1** an arrangement between lovers to meet at a secret place or time **2** the meeting or meeting place arranged by lovers

tsar, czar, tzar /zɑːr, tsɑːr/ *n* (until 1917) the male ruler of Russia

tsa·ri·na , czarina, tzarina /zɑːˈriːnə, tsɑː-/ *n* (until 1917) **1** the female ruler of Russia **2** the wife of the tsar

tsar·is·m , czarism, tzarism /ˈzɑːrɪzəm, ˈtsɑː-/ *n* [U] a system of government under a tsar esp. the system in Russia before 1917 **tsarist, czarist** *adj, n*

TSB /ˌtiː es ˈbiː/ *abbrev. for:* TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

tset·se fly, tzetze fly /ˈtetsi flaɪ, ˈtsetsi-, ˈsetsi-/ also **tsetse–** *n* a blood-sucking African fly that causes SLEEPING SICKNESS and other serious diseases

T-shirt , tee shirt /ˈtiː ʃɜːt‖-ʃɜːrt/ *n* a collarless garment of light stretchy material for the upper body for informal wear: *She was wearing jeans and a T-shirt.*

tsp *written abbrev. for:* TEASPOON: *one tsp of salt*

T-square /ˈtiː skweəʳ/ *n* a large ruler shaped like a letter T, used esp. in drawing parallel lines

tsu·na·mi /tsʊˈnɑːmi/ *n fml* TIDAL WAVE

TSW /ˌtiː es ˈdʌbəljuː/ Television South West; one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, sending out programmes to the south west of England

TT /ˌtiː ˈtiː/ [*the*] Tourist Trophy; a set of British motorcycle races, held every year on the Isle of Man

TU /ˌtiː ˈjuː/ *abbrev. for* TRADE UNION

Tu·a·mo·tu Ar·chi·pel·a·go /tuːəˌməʊtuː ɑːkɨˈpeləgəʊ‖-ɑːrk-/ [*the*] a group of about 80 CORAL islands in the S Pacific, in French Polynesia

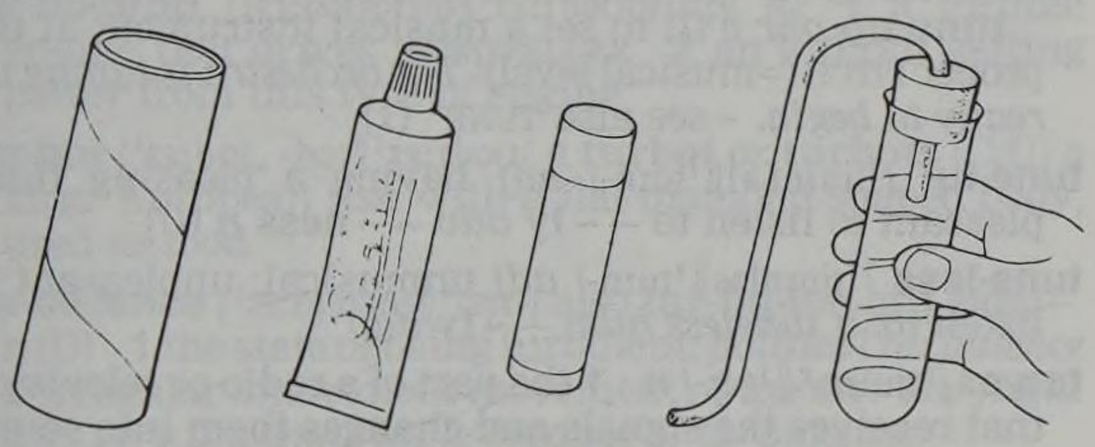
tub /tʌb/ *n* **1 a** a large round open container for washing, storing, etc.: *an old wooden washing tub | He grows roses in tubs on the terrace.* **b** a small often round container for food, etc., usu. made of plastic or paper: *a tub of margarine* **2** *infml* a BATHTUB **3** *infml* an awkward slow boat: *Is this old tub going to make it to port?* **4** *AmE infml* a short, fat person: *Their children are all tubs.*

tu·ba /ˈtjuːbə‖ˈtuːbə/ *n* a large brass musical instrument that produces low notes –see picture at BRASS

tu·bal preg·nan·cy /ˌtjuːbəl ˈpregnənsi‖ˌtuː-/ also **ectopic pregnancy** *med– n* a PREGNANCY in which the fertilized (FERTILIZE) egg begins to grow in the FALLOPIAN TUBE instead of in the WOMB. Usually a woman with a tubal pregnancy must have a medical operation to save her life.

tub·by /ˈtʌbi/ *adj infml* rather short and fat –see FAT (USAGE)

tubes



a cardboard tube | a tube of toothpaste | a tube of glue | rubber tubing | a test tube

tube /tjuːb‖tuːb/ *n* **1** [C] a hollow round pipe of metal, glass, rubber, etc., used esp. for carrying or holding liquids – see also INNER TUBE, TEST TUBE, TUBING **2** [C (**of**)] a small soft metal or plastic container, closed at one end and fitted with a cap at the other, for holding a soft wet mixture, such as TOOTHPASTE, paint, etc., which is pushed out of the tube by tightly pressing it: *a tube of glue|toothpaste* **3** [C] a hollow pipe or organ in the body: *the bronchial tubes* **4** [(*the*) S] (*sometimes cap.*) *BrE infml for* UNDERGROUND[3]: *a tube station|train | She goes to work* **on the tube|by tube.** –compare SUBWAY **5** [C] a CATHODE RAY TUBE **6** [*the*] *AmE infml for* TELEVISION **7** [C (**of**)] *infml, esp. AustrE* a tin of beer **8 go down the tubes** *infml, esp. AmE* to be ruined or brought to a sudden unwanted end: *These welfare programs could go down the tubes if the Administration has its way.*

tube·less /ˈtjuːbləs‖ˈtuːb-/ *adj* having no INNER TUBES: *tubeless tyres*

tu·ber /ˈtjuːbəʳ‖ˈtuː-/ *n* a fleshy swollen underground stem, such as the potato, from which new plants grow – ~**ous** *adj*

tu·ber·cu·lar /tjuːˈbɜːkjʊlərʳ‖tuːˈbɜːr-/ also **tu·ber·cu·lous** /tjuːˈbɜːkjʊləs‖tuːˈbɜːr-/– *adj* of, suffering from, or causing tuberculosis

tu·ber·cu·lo·sis /tjuːˌbɜːkjʊˈləʊsɨs‖tuːˌbɜːr-/ also **TB**– *n* [U] a serious infectious disease that attacks many parts of the body, esp. the lungs

tub·ing /ˈtjuːbɪŋ‖ˈtuː-/ *n* [U] tubes: *ten metres of copper tubing | rubber tubing* –see picture at LABORATORY and TUBE

Tub·man /ˈtʌbmən/, **Har·riet** /ˈhæriət/ (about 1820–1913) an escaped slave in the US who became an ABOLITIONIST, working in the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD to free other slaves. She also served in the American Civil War.

tub-thump·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n BrE infml* a public speaker who tries to persuade or interest listeners by exciting strong or violent feelings –**-ing** *adj, n* [A;U] : *a tub-thumping speech*

tu·bu·lar /ˈtjuːbjʊləʳ‖ˈtuː-/ *adj* made of or in the form of a tube or tubes: *tubular metal furniture | tubular bells*

TUC /ˌtiː juː ˈsiː/ *n* [*the*] Trades Union Congress; the association of British trade unions

tuck[1] /tʌk/ *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **1** to take the edge or end of (a garment, piece of material, etc.) and put or push it into a desired or convenient position, usu. a narrow space: *Tuck your shirt into your trousers.* **2** to put (esp. something flat) into a convenient narrow space for protection, safety, etc.: *He had a book tucked under his arm.| Tuck that money into the top of your sock for safekeeping.* **3** to place (esp. a building) in a private and/or almost hidden place: *Our house is tucked away among the trees. | The post office is tucked behind the grocery store.* –see also **nip and tuck**

tuck sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to store in a safe place: *She's got a lot of money tucked away.* **2** to eat (a lot of food)

tuck in *phr v* **1** [I (**to**)] *infml, esp. BrE* to eat eagerly: *Come along, children, tuck in! | I was just tucking into my dinner when the phone rang.* –see also TUCK-IN **2** [T] *AmE for* TUCK **up**

tuck sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T (**in**)] to make (esp. a child) comfortable in bed by pulling the sheets tight: *He tucked the children up in bed and said goodnight.*

tuck[2] *n* **1** [C] a narrow flat fold of material sewn into a garment for decoration or to give a special shape: *Her new dress was a bit too big, so her mother took a tuck in it.* **2** [U] *BrE old-fash* food, esp. cakes, sweets, etc., as eaten by schoolchildren

Tuck, Friar see FRIAR TUCK

tuck·er[1] /ˈtʌkəʳ/ *n* [U] *AustrE & NZE infml* food: *He packed his lunch in his* **tucker bag.** –see also **one's best bib and tucker** (BIB)

tucker[2] *v* [T (OUT) *usu. pass.*] *infml, esp. AmE* to tire greatly: *The children were tuckered out after the picnic.*

tuck-in /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE infml* a big meal –see also TUCK **in** (1)

tuck shop /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE, old-fash* a place in a school where sweets, drinks, etc. are sold to pupils

Tu·dor /ˈtjuːdəʳ‖ˈtuː-/ *adj* **1** of the English royal family that ruled from 1485 to 1603: *Henry VIII was a Tudor king.* **2** of, or typical of the Tudor period. The Tudor style of house building often used HALF-TIMBERED walls (=with the black wood of the frame showing in the white outer walls): *Tudor houses|furniture* –see colour picture on page 227

Tudor, Henry HENRY VII

Tu·dors /ˈtjuːdəz‖ˈtuːdərz/ [*the*+P] the members of the Tudor family: *After the Tudors, James I came to the throne.*

Tues·day /ˈtjuːzdi‖ˈtuːz-/ (*written abbrev.* **Tue.** *or* **Tues.**) *n* [C;U] the second day of the week, between Monday and Wednesday: *He'll arrive on Tuesday.* | (*BrE infml & AmE*) *He'll arrive Tuesday. | It happened on Tuesday morning.| She left last Tuesday. | She works at home on Tuesdays.| My birthday is on a Tuesday this year.* –see DAY (CULTURAL NOTE)

tuft /tʌft/ *n* [(**of**)] a bunch (of hair, feathers, grass, etc.) growing or held closely together at the base – ~**ed** *adj*

tug[1] /tʌg/ *v* **-gg-** [I (**at**);T] to pull hard with force or much effort: *The small child tugged at her sleeve to try and get her attention. | We tugged the boat out of the water.*

tug[2] *n* a sudden strong pull: *He gave the rope a sharp| gentle tug to free it.*

tug[3] also **tug·boat** /ˈtʌgbəʊt/– *n* a small powerful boat used for pulling and/or guiding ships into a port, up a river, etc.

tug-of-love /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *n BrE infml* (esp. in newspapers) a situation in which a child's parent tries to get the child back from someone else who is looking after him/her, such as the child's other parent or an ADOPTIVE parent: *"Tug-of-love Mum in dramatic chase"*(title of newspaper story)

tug-of-war /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* a test of strength in which two teams pull against each other on a rope, each trying to pull the other over the winning line

Tuil·e·ries /ˈtwiːlərɪ/ [*the*] a large public garden in central Paris, near the Louvre

tu·i·tion /tjuːˈɪʃən‖tuː-/ *n* [U] **1** *fml* instruction or teaching, esp. of people in small groups: *Students' grants cover their* **tuition fees.** | *He's having extra tuition in physics.* **2** *esp. AmE* the price of or payment for instruction: *He's already paid a year's tuition.*

tu·lip /ˈtjuːlɪp‖ˈtuː-/ *n* a garden plant that grows from a BULB and has large colourful cup-shaped flowers on top of tall stems in the spring. There is a well-known song called *Tiptoe throough the Tulips* –see picture at FLOWER

Tull /tʌl/ , **Jeth·ro** /ˈdʒeθrəʊ/ (1674–1741) an English AGRICULTURALIST who introduced new methods of farming and invented a machine for sowing (SOW[1]) seeds

tulle /tjuːl‖tuːl/ *n* [U] a thin soft silk or nylon netlike material used for making dresses, VEILS, etc.

Tul·sa /ˈtʌlsə/ a city in NE Oklahoma in the US. It is an important centre of the US oil industry.

tum·ble[1] /ˈtʌmbəl/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to fall suddenly or helplessly; roll over or down quickly or violently: *The little boy tripped and tumbled down the stairs.* | (fig.) *Stock market prices tumbled* (=fell sharply) *after rumours of a rise in interest rates.* **2** [I (DOWN)] to fall to pieces; fall down; COLLAPSE: *The hut we built is already tumbling down.* –see also TUMBLEDOWN **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to move or go in confusion or disorder: *The children tumbled off the bus into the park.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to throw about in a confused mass **5** [I **(to)**] *sl, esp. BrE* to understand suddenly; REALIZE: *It was a long time before she tumbled (to what I meant).* **6** [I] *AmE* to perform TUMBLING acts

tumble[2] *n* a fall, esp. one from a height: *He's taken a few nasty tumbles recently.* –see also ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE

tum·ble·down /ˈtʌmbəldaʊn/ *adj* [A] in a condition of near ruin: *a tumbledown old house* –see also TUMBLE[1] (2)

tum·ble-dry·er, -drier /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a heated container in which washed clothes are spun gently round and round to dry them –**tumble-dry** *v* [T]

tum·bler /ˈtʌmblə^r/ *n* **1** a flat-bottomed drinking glass with no handle or stem: *a set of six tumblers* **2** the part in a lock that must be turned by a key before the lock will open **3 a** *old-fash for* ACROBAT **b** *AmE* someone who practises tumbling

tum·ble·weed /ˈtʌmbəlwiːd/ *n* [U] a plant growing in the desert areas of N America which breaks off its root in autumn and is blown about by the wind

tum·bling /ˈtʌmblɪŋ/ *n* [U] *AmE* a sport similar to GYMNASTICS, but with all exercises performed on a mat or floor, without equipment

tum·brel , -bril /ˈtʌmbrəl/ *n* a simple cart used for taking prisoners to the GUILLOTINE in the French Revolution

tu·mes·cent /tjuːˈmesənt‖tuː-/ *adj tech* swollen or swelling –**-cence** *n* [U]

tu·mid /ˈtjuːmɪd‖ˈtuː-/ *adj tech* (of a part of the body) swollen –~**ity** /tjuːˈmɪdətɪ‖tuː-/ *n* [U]

tum·my /ˈtʌmɪ/ *n infml* the stomach; used mainly by children: *a tummy ache*

tu·mour *BrE* ‖ **-mor** *AmE* /ˈtjuːmə^r‖ˈtuː-/ *n* a mass of diseased cells in the body which have divided and increased too quickly, causing swelling and illness: *a brain tumour* | *a benign/malignant tumour* –compare GROWTH (4)

tu·mult /ˈtjuːmʌlt‖ˈtuː-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* the confused noise and excitement of a big crowd, fighting, etc.; state of confusion and excitement; UPROAR: *His announcement was drowned in the tumult.*

tu·mul·tu·ous /tjuːˈmʌltʃuəs‖tuː-/ *adj* very noisy and disorderly; full of tumult: *a tumultuous welcome* | *tumultuous applause* –~**ly** *adv*

tu·mu·lus /ˈtjuːmjʊləs‖ˈtuː-/ also **barrow**– *n* **-luses** *or* **-li** /laɪ/ a large pile of earth put over a grave by people in very ancient times

tu·na /ˈtjuːnə‖ˈtuːnə/ *n* **tuna** *or* **tunas** **1** [C] also **tunny** *BrE*– a large sea fish caught for food **2** [U] also **tuna fish** /ˈ·· ·/– the flesh of this fish, usu. sold ready cooked in tins

tuna melt /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a dish consisting of bread and tuna with melted cheese on top, usu. eaten for LUNCH

Tun·bridge Wells /ˌtʌnbrɪdʒ ˈwelz/ a town in SW Kent, SE England, which was an important SPA in the 17th and 18th centuries. Tunbridge Wells is often thought of as a place with many older, right-wing people who are strongly opposed to social change and are easily shocked. People sometimes make jokes about letters to newspapers signed "Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells".

tun·dra /ˈtʌndrə/ *n* [(*the*) U] a cold treeless plain in the far north of Europe, Asia, and N America, which is frozen hard in winter

tune[1] /tjuːn‖tuːn/ *n* **1** a number of musical notes, played or sung one after the other, that form a pleasing pattern of sound; arrangement of musical sounds: *He strolled along humming/whistling a tune.* **2 in/out of tune: a** at/not at the correct PITCH (=musical level): *The piano is out of tune.* **b** in/not in agreement or sympathy: *His ideas were in tune with the period in which he lived.* **3 to the tune of** *infml* to the amount of: *in debt to the tune of £5000* –see also **call the tune** (CALL[1]), **carry a tune** (CARRY[1] (18)), **change one's tune** (CHANGE[1]), **dance to someone's tune** (DANCE[1])

tune[2] *v* [T (UP)] **1** to set (a musical instrument) at the proper PITCH (=musical level): *The musicians/orchestra tuned their instruments (up) before the concert began.* –see also TUNE **up,** TUNING FORK **2** to put (an engine) in good working order for top speed and best performance: *The engine needs some fine tuning.* –see also TUNE-UP **3** [I+IN, **to**;T **(to)**] to set (a radio or television) to receive broadcasts from a particular station: *We always tune in (to Radio 4) to hear the 10 o'clock news.* | **Stay tuned** *(to this channel) for the latest news from Washington.* | *I tuned the radio to the BBC World Service.* **4 tuned in (to)** in touch with what is happening or with what people are thinking or saying: *an astute politician who's tuned in to popular feeling on this issue*

tune sbdy./sthg. **out** *phr v* [T;I] *AmE* to ignore or stop listening (to someone): *She tuned out after I said no extra money was involved.* | *You have to just tune him out when he gets angry.*

tune up *phr v* [I] to set a musical instrument at the proper PITCH (=musical level): *The orchestra is tuning up ready to begin.* –see also TUNE[2] (1)

tune·ful /ˈtjuːnfəl‖ˈtuːn-/ *adj* having a pleasing tune; pleasant to listen to –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

tune·less /ˈtjuːnləs‖ˈtuːn-/ *adj* unmusical; unpleasant to listen to: *a tuneless hum* –~**ly** *adv*

tun·er /ˈtjuːnə^r‖ˈtuː-/ *n* **1** the part of a radio or television that receives the signals and changes them into sound and/or pictures **2** a person who tunes musical instruments: *a piano tuner*

tune-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* an act of tuning (TUNE[2] (2)) an engine

tung·sten /ˈtʌŋstən/ also **wolfram**– *n* [U] a hard metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), used esp. in the production of steel

tu·nic /ˈtjuːnɪk‖ˈtuː-/ *n* **1** a loose-fitting garment, usu. without SLEEVES, which reaches to the knees and is usu. worn with a belt around the waist, esp. of a kind worn in former times **2** a specially shaped short coat worn by soldiers, police officers, etc., as part of a uniform

tuning fork /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small steel instrument, consisting of a stem that divides into two and producing a pure musical note of fixed PITCH (=musical level) when struck, used in tuning musical instruments

tuning peg /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a PEG[1] (3) –see picture at PEG

Tu·nis /ˈtjuːnɪs‖ˈtuː-/ the capital city of Tunisia, in the NE of the country

Tu·nis·i·a /tjuːˈnɪzɪə‖tuːˈniːʒə/ a country and republic in NW Africa, bordered by Algeria, Libya, and the Mediterranean Sea; capital Tunis; population 7,990,000 (1989) –**Tunisian** *n, adj*

tun·nel[1] /ˈtʌnl/ *n* a usu. man-made underground passage:

The train went through a tunnel. | *The prisoners dug a tunnel to try to escape, but it caved in.* —see also WIND TUNNEL, **light at the end of the tunnel** (LIGHT[1] (15))

tunnel[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* **1** [I;T] to make a tunnel under or through (a hill, river, etc.): *Engineers are tunnelling (under) the river.* | *The prisoners tunnelled their way to freedom.* **2** [T] to make or form as or like a tunnel: *They tunnelled a passage under the perimeter fence.* —**~ler, ~er** *n*

tunnel vi·sion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** a condition in which one's eyes are damaged so that one can only see straight ahead, not to the sides **2** *derog* a tendency to consider only part of a question or hold only one opinion, without even trying to examine others

tun·ny /ˈtʌni/ *n* **tunny** *or* **tunnies** *BrE* a TUNA

tup·pence /ˈtʌpəns/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* TWOPENCE

tup·penny /ˈtʌpni/ *adj* [A] *BrE* TWOPENNY

Tup·per·ware /ˈtʌpəweəʳ‖-pər-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of plastic goods, esp. containers, sold not in shops but by people who ask friends round for **Tupperware parties**, social gatherings where the goods are offered for sale and the seller receives part of any money collected

tur·ban /ˈtɜːbən‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* **1** a head covering of Muslim origin, worn by men in parts of North Africa and southern Asia, consisting of a long length of cloth wound tightly round the head **2** a small tight-fitting hat worn by women —**-baned** *adj*

tur·bid /ˈtɜːbɨd‖ˈtɜːr-/ *adj fml or tech* **1** (of a liquid) not clear or transparent; muddy; thick: *the turbid waters of the river* **2** (of smoke, clouds, etc.) heavy and dark; DENSE **3** confused: *the turbid images of a dream* —**~ness, ~ity** /tɜːˈbɪdɨti‖tɜːr-/ *n* [U]

tur·bine /ˈtɜːbaɪn‖ˈtɜːrbɨn, -baɪn/ *n* an engine or motor in which the pressure of a liquid or gas, usu. at very high temperatures, drives a special wheel, producing a circular movement: —see also GAS TURBINE, WIND TURBINE and see picture at WINDMILL

tur·bo·charg·er /ˈtɜːbəʊˌtʃɑːdʒəʳ ‖ ˈtɜːrbəʊˌtʃɑːr-/ also **turbo** /ˈtɜːbəʊ‖ˈtɜːr-/*infml*— *n* an apparatus, worked by a turbine driven by a vehicle's waste gases, that sends the air-petrol mixture into an engine at higher than usual pressure, making it more powerful —**turbocharge** *v* [T]

tur·bo·jet /ˈtɜːbəʊdʒet‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* **1** a powerful engine that produces forward movement by forcing out a stream of hot air and gases behind itself, used esp. in aircraft **2** an aircraft getting power from this type of engine

tur·bo·prop /ˈtɜːbəʊprɒp‖ˈtɜːrbəʊprɑːp/ *n* **1** a turbine engine that drives a PROPELLER **2** an aircraft getting power from this type of engine

tur·bot /ˈtɜːbɒt, -bət‖ˈtɜːrbəʊ/ *n* **turbot** *or* **turbots** [C;U] a large European fish with a flat diamond-shaped body, used as food

tur·bu·lence /ˈtɜːbjʊləns‖ˈtɜːr-/ also **tur·bu·len·cy** /-lənsi/— *n* [U] **1** the state of being turbulent: *political turbulence* **2** irregular and violent movement of the air: *The flight was very uncomfortable because of turbulence.*

tur·bu·lent /ˈtɜːbjʊlənt‖ˈtɜːr-/ *adj* **1** violent and disorderly; having a restless or uncontrolled quality: *turbulent weather|winds* | *a turbulent period of history* | *a turbulent crowd* **2 Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?** *quote* a phrase that is supposed to have been said by Henry II of England, which led to the murder of the priest Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral —**~ly** *adv*

turd /tɜːd‖tɜːrd/ *n* **1** *taboo* a piece of solid waste material passed from the body **2** *taboo sl* an offensive person

tu·reen /tjʊˈriːn‖təˈriːn/ *n* a large deep dish with a lid, from which soup is served at a table

turf[1] /tɜːf‖tɜːrf/ *n* **turfs** *or* **turves** /tɜːvz‖tɜːrvz/ **1** [U] a surface made up of earth and a thick covering of grass: *the smooth turf of a bowling green* **2** [C] *AmE usu.* **sod** a piece of this: *She bought some turves to repair her lawn.* **3** [*the*+S] the sport or world of horseracing **4** [U] *sl, esp. AmE* an area claimed by a group as its own; this word is used esp. by young GANG members

turf[2] *v* [T] to cover (a piece of land) with turf

turf sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**of**)] *infml, esp. BrE* to throw out; get rid of: *He's been turfed out of the club for not paying his bill.*

turf ac·coun·tant /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n BrE fml for* BOOKMAKER

Tur·ge·nev /tʊəˈgeɪnjef‖tʊər-/, **I·van** /ˈaɪvən/ (1818–83) a Russian writer of books, short stories, and plays, best known for his play *A Month in the Country* and his book *Fathers and Sons*

tur·gid /ˈtɜːdʒɨd‖ˈtɜːr-/ *adj* **1** *fml derog* (of language or style) too solemn and self-important **2** *tech* swollen, e.g. by a liquid or inner pressure —**~ly** *adv* —**~ity** /tɜːˈdʒɪdɨti‖tɜːr-/ *n* [U]

Tu·rin /tjʊəˈrɪn‖tʊ-/ a city on the River Po in NW Italy, the capital of Piedmont REGION and a centre of the Italian car industry. The Italian name is **Torin.**

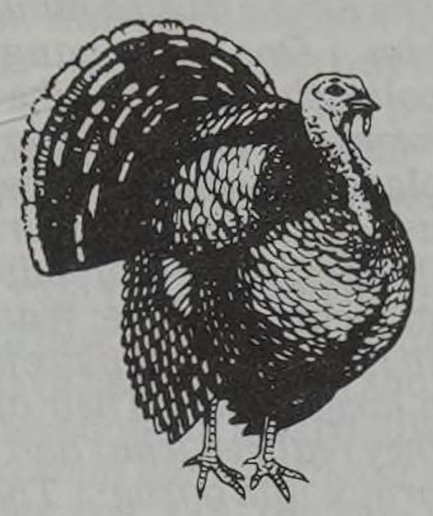
Tu·ring /ˈtjʊərɪŋ‖ˈtʊ-/ , **A·lan** /ˈælən/ (1912–54) an English MATHEMATICIAN and computer scientist who, before computers had been invented, imagined the possibility of a machine which could perform processes similar to human thought

Turin Shroud /·ˌ· ˈ·/ the cloth believed by some people to have covered the dead body of Jesus Christ after he had been crucified (CRUCIFY) and to be marked with the face of Jesus. It is now kept in Turin.

Turk /tɜːk‖tɜːrk/ *n* a person who comes from or whose parents come from Turkey —see also YOUNG TURK

tur·key /ˈtɜːki‖ˈtɜːrki/ *n* **1** [C] a large bird, rather like a large chicken, kept on farms for its meat which is eaten, esp. at Christmas and (in the US) at Thanksgiving **2** [U] the flesh of this bird as food: *slices of roast turkey* **3** [C] *AmE infml* **a** a failure: *The movie we saw last night was a real turkey.* **b** a useless or silly person —see also COLD TURKEY, **talk turkey** (TALK[1] (15))

turkey



Turkey a country in W Asia and SW Europe, between the Mediterranean and Black Seas; capital Ankara; population 56,741,000 (1989). Turkey has been a republic since 1923, and was the centre of the OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Turkish /ˈtɜːkɪʃ ‖ ˈtɜːr-/ *adj* of Turkey

Turkish bath /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a health treatment for the body in which one sits in a very hot steamy room, often followed by a cold SHOWER[1] (3) and a MASSAGE —compare SAUNA

Turkish cof·fee /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] a strong finely-ground (GRIND) coffee which is drunk black and with sugar, usu. from small cups

Turkish de·light /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] a very sweet pink, white, or green jelly-like substance covered in powder sugar or chocolate, eaten in lumps as a sweet

Turk·men·i·stan /ˌtɜːkmenɨˈstɑːn‖ˌtɜːrkmenɨˈstæn/ a country in central Asia bordered by Uzbekistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and the Caspian Sea; capital Ashkhabad; population 3,534,000 (1989)

Turks and Cai·cos Is·lands /ˌtɜːks ənd ˈkeɪkəs ˌaɪləndz‖ ˌtɜːrks-/ [*the*+P] a group of 30 islands in the British West Indies, SE of the Bahamas; capital Grand Turk

tur·me·ric /ˈtɜːmərɪk‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* [U] (an Asian plant with a yellowish root crushed to) a fine powder that is used for giving a special taste and colour to food, esp. CURRY

tur·moil /ˈtɜːmɔɪl‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* [S;U] a state of confusion, excitement, and trouble: *She couldn't think; her mind was in (a) complete turmoil.* | *His assassination threw the country into turmoil.*

turn[1] /tɜːn‖tɜːrn/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move round a central or fixed point: *The big wheel turned slowly.* | *She turned the key in the lock.* | *I turned the screw a few more times to tighten it.* **2** [I;T (OVER)] to (cause to) move so that a different side faces upwards or outwards: *She turned over and went to sleep.* | *He was* **tossing and turning** *all night, unable to sleep.* | *Fry the steak for five minutes then turn it and fry the other side.* | *He turned the pages of the book.* | *She turned back the sheets.* | *She turned down the corner of the page to keep her place.* | *He turned the jacket inside out|turned the glass upside down.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to (cause to) change position or direction so as to face or move in a particular direction: *Turn right at the end of the street.* | *She turned away and began to cry.* | *We turned onto the motorway at Royston.* | (fig.) *As his debts grew bigger, he turned to*

crime. (=became a criminal) | (fig.) *Can you help me? I'm desperate; I* **don't know which way to turn.** (=who to ask for help) | (fig.) *Our luck has turned.* (=become better) | *The tide is turning.* | *The bus turned into the hotel entrance.* | *Angrily, he* **turned on his heel(s)** (=turned suddenly) *and walked out.* | *She turned her car round and drove off in the opposite direction.* —see also TURN **back**, TURN **off** (3) **4** [I (ROUND, AROUND)] to bend round or look round: *He turned (round) and waved.* | *She turned to me and smiled.* **5** [T] to go round: *The car turned the corner.* | (fig.) *Exports have been low this year, but recently the figures have been improving; we seem to have* **turned the corner.** **6** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **on**] to aim or point; set or direct in a particular direction: *The firemen turned their hoses on the blazing building.* | *She turned the aerial towards the transmitter.* | *He turned his back on her.* | (fig.) *How can you* **turn your back on** (=not help) *people in need?* | (fig.) *We should now turn our attention to other aspects of the problem.* **7** [T] to do or perform by moving round a fixed point: *The skater turned a neat circle on the ice.* **8** [L;T+*obj*+*adj*] to change so as to become (esp. something bad): *She suddenly turned pale when she heard the bad news.* | *He turns nasty if you laugh at him.* | *His hair turned grey* | *In autumn the leaves turn brown.* | *The milk will turn sour if you don't put it in the fridge.* | *The King's trusted minister* **turned traitor** *and poisoned him.* | *One of the gang* **turned informer** *and gave the police the details of the robbery.* | *The Congressman is a former football player turned politician.* (=a football player who has now become a politician) | *This hot sun will turn the grass brown.* —see BECOME (USAGE) **9** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **from, into**] to change in form or nature: *Water turns into ice when it freezes.* | *In fifty years this place has turned from a little village into a large town.* | *Their amusement turned to horror when they realized what had happened.* | *The witch turned the prince into a frog.* | *The President's unfortunate remark turned the incident from a trivial matter into a serious controversy.* **10** [T *not usu. in progressive forms*] to reach or pass (a certain age, time, amount, etc.): *It's just turned 3 o'clock.* (=It is just after 3 o'clock.) | *"I wonder how old he is." "He must be turned 40."* (=older than 40) **11** [I;T] to (cause to) feel uncomfortable, sick, etc.: *Fatty food* **turns my stomach.** | *Don't tell me any more of the gory details – you're* **making my stomach turn.** **12** [T] to shape (wood or metal); form: *These craftsmen turn wood on lathes.* **13** [I;T] to (cause to) become sour: *The heat has turned the milk.* | (fig.) *The terrible tragedy had quite* **turned her brain.** (=made her slightly mad) **14** [T] *old-fash or AmE* to hurt (one's ankle) by twisting it **15 turn a phrase** to say a clever thing neatly **16 turn somewhere upside down** to search everywhere in a place, esp. untidily or roughly: *The police turned his flat upside down looking for drugs.* —see also **turn one's back on** (BACK[1]), **turn a blind eye (to)** (BLIND[1]), **turn the other cheek** (CHEEK[1]), **turn a deaf ear to** (DEAF), **turn in one's grave** (GRAVE[1]), **not turn a hair** (HAIR), **turn one's hand to** (HAND[1]), **turn someone's head** (HEAD[1]), **turn over a new leaf** (LEAF[1]), **turn one's nose up (at)** (NOSE[1]), **turn the tables (on someone)** (TABLE[1]), **turn tail** (TAIL[1]), **turn up trumps** (TRUMPS), **turn turtle** (TURTLE)

turn (sbdy.) **against** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to (cause to) become opposed to or an enemy of: *The minister has turned against his former colleagues.* | *He claims that his ex-wife has turned the children against him.*

turn sbdy. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] **1** to refuse to let in: *The hall was full, and hundreds of fans had to be turned away.* **2** to refuse to give one's sympathy, help, or support to

turn (sbdy.) ↔ **back** *phr v* **1** [I] to go in the opposite direction: *We turned back when it started snowing.* **2** [T] to stop from going forward: *They were turned back at the border by the security police.* **3** [(on)] **turn back the clock** return to an earlier state or condition: *legislation that turns back the clock on human rights*

turn sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to reduce the force, speed, loudness, etc., of (something) by using controls: *Turn that radio down at once!* | *to turn down the heating* —opposite **turn up** **2** to refuse (a request or offer or the person that makes it; REJECT): *Thank you, but I'll have to turn down your offer.* | *He proposed to her, but she turned him down.* (=refused to marry him) —see REFUSE (USAGE)

turn (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **in** *phr v* **1** [T] to give back to the proper or original owner; return: *You must turn in your gun when you leave the army.* **2** [T] **a** to gain or produce as a result of work: *The company has turned in record profits this year.* **b** *esp. AmE* to hand in (work that one has done): *This is a poor piece of work you've turned in.* **3** [T] to deliver to the police: *The wanted man turned himself in.* **4** [I] *infml* to go to bed

turn off *phr v* **1** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **off**) to stop the flow of (water, gas, etc., in a pipe) by screwing a TAP tighter: *He turned the gas off/turned off the hot water.* **2** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **off**) to stop the operation of (a radio, light, etc.), esp. by using a button or SWITCH: *She turned the TV off.* | *Turn off the light.* —see OPEN[2] (USAGE) **3** [I;T (=**turn off** sthg.)] to leave (one road, esp. a main road) and take another: *We turned off (the freeway) at Detroit.* —see also TURN-OFF (1) **4** [I;T (=**turn** sbdy. ↔ **off**)] *infml* to (cause to) lose interest: *I turned off when they started talking about computers.* **5** [T] (**turn** sbdy. ↔ **off**) *infml* to cause a feeling of dislike in (someone) or fail to interest them sexually: *It really turns me off to see you biting your toenails.* —see also TURN-OFF

turn on *phr v* **1** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **on**) to cause (water, gas, etc., in a pipe) to flow by unscrewing a TAP: *She turned the water on.* **2** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **on**) to cause (a radio, light, etc.) to operate, esp. by using a button or SWITCH: *He turned on the TV.* | (fig.) *She turns on her charm whenever she wants anything.* —see OPEN[2] (USAGE) **3** [T] (**turn on** sthg.) to depend on: [+*v-ing*] *The success of the negotiations turns on getting the agreement of the Italian delegation.* **4** [T] (**turn on** sbdy.) also **turn upon** sbdy.— to attack suddenly and without warning **5** [T] (**turn** sbdy. ↔ **on**) *infml* to excite or interest strongly, and often sexually —see also TURN-ON **6** [I;T (=**turn** sbdy. ↔ **on**)] **a** *sl* to (cause to) take an illegal drug, esp. for the first time: *He turned her on to cocaine.* **b** to (cause to) find (something useful or interesting): *My uncle turned me on to these new plant holders.*

turn out *phr v* **1** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **out**) to stop the operation of (a light) by turning a SWITCH: *Turn the light out.* **2** [T] (**turn** sbdy. ↔ **out**) to force to leave; send away: *Her father turned her out (of the house) when she became pregnant.* **3** [I] to come out or gather (as if) for a meeting, public event, etc.: *Enormous crowds turned out for the procession.* —see also TURNOUT (1) **4** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **out**) *infml* to produce; make: *This factory can turn out 100 cars a day.* **5** [T] (**turn** sthg. ↔ **out**) to clear or empty the contents of (a cupboard, drawer, etc.): *The policeman told him to turn out his pockets.* **6** [L] to happen to be, or be found to be, in the end: *It's turned out nice and sunny again.* | *The party turned out a success.* (=although we thought it might not be) [+*to-v*] *To our surprise the stranger turned out to be* (=we discovered that he was) *an old friend of my mother's.* | *His statement turned out to be false.*/*It turned out that his statement was false.* **7** *esp. BrE* **well/badly turned out** well/badly dressed —see also TURNOUT (2)

turn (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **over** *phr v* **1** [T] to think about carefully; consider in various ways: *She turned the problem over in her mind.* **2** [T (**to**)] to deliver into the possession or control of someone else, esp. the police: *They turned the wanted man over to the authorities.* | *The confidential report has been turned over to the President.* | *He turned the business over to his two children.* **3** [T] to do business or sell goods worth (the stated amount): *The store is currently turning over £1000 a week.* —see also TURNOVER (2) **4** [I;T] to run or cause (an engine) to run at lowest speed —see also TURN[1] (2)

turn sthg. **round** *BrE* ‖ **around** *AmE*— *phr v* [T] to complete the processing of: *our company can turn round a batch of 50 pressings inside two hours*

turn to *phr v* **1** [T] (**turn to** sbdy./sthg.) to go to for help, advice, sympathy, comfort, etc.: *I can't tell my parents about it; I don't know who to turn to.* | *In his desperation, he turned to drink.* (=alcohol) **2** [T] (**turn to** sthg.) to look at (the stated page) in a book **3** [I] *old-fash* to begin work; work hard: *The committee turned to and soon produced a plan.*

turn (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **up** *phr v* **1** [T] to increase the force, speed, loudness, etc., of (something) by using controls: *Turn the radio up; I can't hear it.* —opposite **turn down** **2** [I] to be found after being lost, esp. without being searched for: *The missing bag turned up, completely empty, in the lake.* —see also TURN-UP **3** [I] to arrive; make one's appearance: *She turns up late for everything.* **4** [I] to happen, esp. unexpectedly and fortunately: *Don't worry, something's sure to turn up.* **5** [T] to find by

thoroughly searching; UNEARTH: *The police have turned up a lot of new information about the wanted man.* **6** [T] ‖ usu. **take up** *AmE* to shorten (a garment) by folding up the bottom

turn upon sbdy. *phr v* [T] to TURN **on** (4)

turn[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of turning; single movement completely round a fixed point: *Don't pull the handle; give it a turn.* **2** [C] a change of direction: *a turn in the river* | *Make a left turn after the bank.* —see also TURNING **3** [C] a place or appointed time in a fixed order, that gives one the chance or duty to do something: *You've missed your turn so you'll have to wait.* | *He asked each of us in turn.* [+*to-v*] *It's my turn to drive next.* | *You can't all do it together; you'll have to* **take turns/take it in turns.** (=do it one after the other) **4** [*the*+S (**of**)] a point of change in time: *He was born at* **the turn of the century.** (e.g., in about 1899 or 1900) **5** [S] a change from an existing situation or condition; new development: *I'm afraid she's* **taken a turn for the worse.** (=has become more ill) | *There's been an unusual* **turn of events.** (=something unusual has happened) **6** [S] a particular style, habit, or tendency: *He was of a melancholy* **turn of mind.** (=was sad by nature) | *She has a witty* **turn of phrase.** (=can express things in a clever funny way) **7** [S] *infml* a sudden shock: *You gave me quite a turn when you shouted out like that.* **8** [C] *infml* a sudden attack of illness: *She's had one of her funny turns again.* **9 a good/bad turn** an action that has a good or helpful/bad or unhelpful effect on someone: *She* **did me a good turn** *by lending me that money.* **10 at every turn** in every place or at every moment; continually: *The committee of inquiry was frustrated at every turn, and was unable to discover the truth.* **11 by turns** also **turn and turn about**— one after another; in order **12 cooked/done to a turn** (of food) perfectly cooked: *The steak was done to a turn.* **13 in turn** afterwards in the correct or expected order: *I told Frank and he in (his) turn told Sheila.* **14 one good turn deserves another** *saying* one should express one's gratefulness for a kind or helpful act by doing a similar one in return **15 on the turn: a** about to turn or change: *The tide is on the turn.* | *Public opinion on this issue seems to be on the turn.* **b** (of milk) on the point of becoming sour **16 out of turn** at an unsuitable time or in an unsuitable way: *I hope I haven't* **spoken out of turn;** *I didn't know it was supposed to be secret.*

turn·a·bout /ˈtɜːnəbaʊt‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n* **1** also **turnaround**— an act of turning in a different or opposite direction: (fig.) *The government's sudden turnabout on unemployment has caused some confusion.* **2 turnabout is fair play** *AmE saying* one deserves a chance to do or try what one has seen another person do (usu. said when someone has expressed surprise at one's actions)

turn·a·round /ˈtɜːnəraʊnd‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n esp. AmE* **1** *for* TURNROUND and TURNABOUT **2** a place for a vehicle to turn around, esp. at the end of a street

turn·coat /ˈtɜːnkəʊt‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n derog* someone who changes their party, moral principles, or loyalty

turn·cock /ˈtɜːnkɒk‖ˈtɜːrnkɑːk/ *n* a STOPCOCK

turn·er /ˈtɜːnəʳ‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* a person who shapes wood or metal on a LATHE —see also TURN[1] (12)

Turner , Jo·seph Mal·lord Wil·liam /ˈdʒəʊzɨf ˈmælәd ˈwɪljәm‖-ˈmælәrd-/ (1775–1851) an English LANDSCAPE painter who used large areas of light and colour to express the effects of the forces of nature, as in his famous painting *The Fighting Téméraire*

Turner, Nat /næt/ (1800–31) an American slave who led a successful REBELLION by slaves against their masters and was hanged for his part in this

Turner, Tina /ˈtiːnə/ (1938–) an American popular music singer who first became successful with her husband Ike. They separated in 1974 and 10 years later that she became successful again, esp. in live concerts. —see colour picture on page 554

Turner Broad·cast·ing Sys·tem /ˌ·· ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*] also **TBS**— an American television company based in Atlanta, Georgia, whose programmes are shown mostly on CABLE and SATELLITE television

turn·ing /ˈtɜːnɪŋ‖ˈtɜːr-/ *BrE* ‖ **turn** *AmE*— *n* a place where one road branches off from another: *Go down the road, and take the first turning on the right.*

turning cir·cle /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* the smallest circle round which a motor vehicle can be driven: *Although it's a big car it has a surprisingly small turning circle.*

turning point /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a point in time at which a very important change takes place: *a turning point in our country's industrial development*

tur·nip /ˈtɜːnɨp‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] (a plant producing) a large round yellowish or white root which is used as a vegetable

turn·key[1] /ˈtɜːnkiː‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n old use for* JAILER

turnkey[2] *adj* [A] constructed and/or delivered ready to operate: *a turnkey project for a nuclear plant* | *turnkey computer systems*

turn-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a smaller road branching off from a main road —see also TURN **off** (3) **2** *infml* something that causes one to feel dislike or lose interest, esp. sexually —see also TURN **off** (4,5)

Turn of the Screw /ˌ· · · ˈ·/, **The** a GHOST story by Henry James in which a woman believes that evil dead people are influencing two children she is caring for

turn-on /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* something that excites or interests one strongly, esp. sexually —see also TURN **on** (5)

turn·out /ˈtɜːnaʊt‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n* **1 a** the number of people who attend a gathering; ATTENDANCE **b** the number of people who actually vote at an election: *Intense interest in the election ensured a* **high turnout.** —see also TURN **out** (3) **2** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* the manner or style in which a person is dressed: *a colourful turnout* —see also TURN **out** (7) **3** *AmE* a wide place in a narrow road where cars can pass or park

turn·o·ver /ˈtɜːnˌəʊvəʳ‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n* **1** [S] the rate at which a particular kind of article is sold: *These new products have had a quick turnover.* (=many have been sold in a short time) **2** [S] the amount of business done in a particular period, measured in money: *The shop has a turnover of £5000 a week.* —see also TURN **over** (3) **3** [S] the rate at which workers leave a company or organization and new workers are employed to take their places: *They have a very high turnover of staff because their working conditions are so bad.* **4** [C] a small fruit PIE: *an apple turnover* —compare POPOVER **5** *AmE* an act of a team's losing possession of the ball (in football or BASKETBALL) because of breaking the rules

turn·pike /ˈtɜːnpaɪk‖ˈtɜːrn-/ also **pike, turnpike road** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* **1** *AmE* a main road for the use of fast-travelling traffic, esp. one which drivers must pay to use **2** (formerly in Britain) a road which travellers had to pay to use —see EXPRESSWAY (USAGE)

turn·round /ˈtɜːnraʊnd‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *BrE* ‖ **turnaround** *esp. AmE*— *n* **1** (the time taken for) receiving and dealing with something and sending it back, esp. the arrival, unloading, reloading, and leaving of a plane, ship, etc. —see also TURN **round** **2** [*usu. sing.*] a change to an opposite and usu. better situation: *The turnround in the football club's fortunes dates from the day they got their new manager.*

turn·stile /ˈtɜːnstaɪl‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n* a small gate with arms spinning round on a central post, set in an entrance to let people in one at a time, usu. after payment —see picture at STILE

turn·stone /ˈtɜːnstәʊn‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n* a small bird which lives by the sea and turns over stones, looking for small animals to eat

turn·ta·ble /ˈtɜːnˌteɪbәl‖ˈtɜːrn-/ *n* **1** the round spinning surface on which a record is placed to be played **2** a large flat round surface, sunk into the ground, onto which railway engines run to be turned round

turn-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [C] *BrE* ‖ **cuff** *AmE*— a narrow band of cloth turned upwards at the bottom of a trouser leg **2** [S] also **turn-up for the book** /ˌ· · · · ˈ·/— *BrE infml* an unexpected and surprising event

tur·pen·tine /ˈtɜːpәntaɪn‖ˈtɜːr-/ also **turps** /tɜːps‖tɜːrps/ *BrE infml*— *n* [U] a thin oil made from the wood of certain trees, used for removing unwanted paint from clothes, brushes, etc., for mixing with paint to make it thinner, and in medicine

Tur·pin /ˈtɜːpɪn‖ˈtɜːr-/ , **Dick** (1706–39) an English HIGHWAYMAN who was hanged at York, but who later came to be seen as a popular HERO

tur·pi·tude /ˈtɜːpɨtjuːd ‖ ˈtɜːrpɨtuːd/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* shameful wickedness: *gross moral turpitude*

tur·quoise[1] /ˈtɜːkwɔɪz, -kwɑːz‖ˈtɜːrkwɔɪz/ *n* [C;U] (a shaped piece of) a precious greenish-blue mineral. Turquoise is often used in Native American jewellery.

turquoise[2] *adj* of the colour of turquoise

tur·ret /ˈtʌrɨt/ *n* **1** a small tower, usu. at a corner of a larger building and usu. either decorative or for defence —see picture at CASTLE **2** a low heavily armoured metal DOME on a TANK (2), plane, warship, etc., that spins round to allow its guns to be aimed in any direction —~**ed** *adj*

tur·tle /ˈtɜːtl‖ˈtɜːrtl/ *n* **turtles** *or* **turtle** **1** an animal that lives esp. in water and has a soft body covered by a hard bony shell into which the head, legs, and tail can be pulled for protection —compare TORTOISE; see also MOCK TURTLE SOUP, and see picture at TORTOISE **2 turn turtle** (of a ship) to turn over; CAPSIZE

tur·tle·dove /ˈtɜːtldʌv‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n* a bird with a pleasant soft cry, whose males and females are supposed to love each other very much

tur·tle·neck /ˈtɜːtlnek‖ˈtɜːr-/ *n esp. AmE* (a garment with) a POLO NECK

turves /tɜːvz‖tɜːrvz/ *n pl. of* TURF[1]

Tus·ca·ny /ˈtʌskəni/ a REGION in N central Italy; capital Florence. Tuscany is famous for its Chianti wine and is a popular place for middle-class British people to go for a holiday

tush[1] /tʌʃ/ *interj old use* (an expression of dissatisfaction usu. mixed with blame)

tush[2] *n AmE sl for* BOTTOM[1] (3)

tusk /tʌsk/ *n* a very long pointed tooth, usu. one of a pair, that comes out beyond the mouth in certain animals, esp. the elephant

Tus·ke·gee In·sti·tute /tʌsˈkiːgi ˌɪnstɨtjuːt‖-tuːt/ [*the*] one of the first colleges for black people in the US. It was started by Booker T WASHINGTON in 1881 in Tuskegee, Alabama

tusk·er /ˈtʌskəʳ/ *n infml* an elephant

Tus·saud /təˈsɔːd‖tʊˈsəʊ/, **Ma·rie** /ˈmɑːri‖məˈriː/ (1760–1850) a Swiss woman who made models of people in WAX, including famous people guillotined (GUILLOTINE) in the French Revolution. In 1802 she established Madame Tussaud's in London. —see also MADAME TUSSAUD'S

tus·sle[1] /ˈtʌsəl/ *v* [I (**with**)] *infml* to fight roughly without weapons; struggle roughly

tussle[2] *n infml* a rough struggle or fight: *After quite a tussle we beat them by one point.*

tus·sock /ˈtʌsək/ *n* a small thick mass of grass

tut *interj* (the sound like a /t/ made by sucking rather than forcing air out, and often read as /tʌt/, used for expressing slight disapproval or annoyance): *Tut (tut)! I've got some chalk on my coat.*

Tu·tan·kha·men, Tutankhamon /ˌtuːtənˈkɑːmən/ (14th century BC) an Egyptian PHARAOH (=ruler) whose burial place and the valuable things in it were discovered in 1922. Many of these things can now be seen in London.

Tutankhamen



tu·te·lage /ˈtjuːtɨlɪdʒ‖ˈtuː-/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** instruction; teaching: *He made good progress under her tutelage.* **2** the state or period of being under someone's care and protection **3** responsibility for someone, their education, property, actions, etc.; protection

tu·te·la·ry /ˈtjuːtɨləri‖ˈtuːtɨleri/ *adj* [A] *fml or tech* providing protection; acting as a GUARDIAN: *tutelary deities*

tu·tor[1] /ˈtjuːtəʳ‖ˈtuː-/ *n* **1** a teacher who gives private instruction to a single pupil or to a very small class and who sometimes lives with the family of his or her pupil: *a maths/French tutor | a piano tutor* **2** (in British universities and colleges) a teacher who directs the studies of a number of students and/or is responsible for giving them advice about personal matters

tutor[2] *v* [T (**in**)] *fml* to act as a tutor to; give instruction to —see TEACH (USAGE)

tu·to·ri·al[1] /tjuːˈtɔːriəl‖tuː-/ *n* (esp. in British universities and colleges) a period of instruction given by a TUTOR[1] (2): *I've got a tutorial at 2.00.*

tutorial[2] *adj fml* of a tutor or his/her duties

tut·ti frut·ti /ˌtuːti ˈfruːti/ *n, adj* [U] (ice cream) with very small pieces of mixed fruit and crushed nuts mixed in

tut-tut[1] /ˌ· ˈ·/ *interj* TUT

tut-tut[2] /ˌtʌt ˈtʌt/ *v* **-tt-** [I] *infml* to express impatience, annoyance, disapproval, etc., by saying tut-tut

tu·tu /ˈtuːtuː/ *n* a short skirt made of many folds of stiffened material worn by women BALLET dancers

Tutu, Des·mond /ˈdezmənd/ (1931–) a South African ARCHBISHOP and a strong opponent of APARTHEID. Archbishop Tutu received the Nobel Prize for peace in 1984.

Tu·va·lu /tuːˈvɑːluː/ a nation in the S Pacific Ocean, E of the Solomon Islands, made up of nine low CORAL islands; capital Fongafale on Funafuti; population 9,000 (1989). Tuvalu was formerly called the **Ellice Islands**.

tu-whit tu-whoo /təˌwɪt təˈwuː/ *interj* the sound made by an OWL

tux·e·do /tʌkˈsiːdəʊ/ also **tux** /tʌks/ *infml*– *n* **-dos** *AmE* a mąn's jacket, usu. black, worn on formal occasions, e.g. weddings; a DINNER JACKET —see picture at EVENING DRESS

TV /ˌtiː ˈviː◂/ *n* [C;U] (a) television: *What's on TV tonight? | This film was made for TV. | a TV presenter*

TV-AM /ˌtiː viː eɪ ˈem/ a British independent television company which made BREAKFAST TELEVISION programmes

TV din·ner /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a complete dinner conveniently frozen in a packet, that only needs to be heated for a short time before eating

tv e·van·ge·list /ˌ· · ·ˈ···/ see TELEVANGELIST

TV Guide /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a US weekly magazine which gives details and times of television programmes

TVP /ˌtiː viː ˈpiː/ *n* [U] TEXTURED VEGETABLE PROTEIN

TV Times /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* a British weekly magazine which gives details and times of television programmes as well as articles about television stars and programmes

twad·dle /ˈtwɒdl‖ˈtwɑːdl/ *n* [U] *fml* foolish talk or writing; nonsense

twain /tweɪn/ *n* [(*the*) U] *old use or poet* (a set of) two; pair: *"East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet."* (Rudyard Kipling)

Twain , Mark (1835–1910) an American writer and HUMORIST, best known for his NOVELS *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and for his descriptions of life on the Mississippi River. His real name was Samuel Longhorne Clemens.

twang[1] /twæŋ/ *n* **1** a quick ringing such as the sound made by pulling, then suddenly freeing, a very tight string or wire **2** [*usu. sing.*] a quality of sound of human speech produced by pronouncing the words at the back of the mouth or through the nose: *He spoke with a nasal twang.*

twang[2] *v* [I;T] to (cause to) make a twang: *to twang a ruler/a guitar string*

'twas /twɒz‖twɑːz/ *short for:* (*old use or poet*) it was

twat /twɒt, twæt‖twɑːt/ *n taboo sl* **1** *old-fash* the female sex organ **2** *BrE* an unpleasant or foolish person

tweak /twiːk/ *v* [T] *infml* **1** to take hold of, pull, and twist (esp. the ear or nose) with a sudden movement **2** to make small changes to (something such as a car engine or computer PROGRAM) in order to improve its performance —**tweak** *n*: *He gave her ear a friendly little tweak.*

twee /twiː/ *adj BrE infml* too delicate or pretty; unpleasantly DAINTY: *That painting of little cottages with lace curtains is rather twee.*

tweed /twiːd/ *n* [U] a rough woollen cloth woven from threads of several different colours used mostly to make JACKETS, suits, and coats: *a tweed suit* —see also HARRIS TWEED

Tweed [*the*] a river in S Scotland and NE England, rising in the Borders REGION of Scotland and flowing to the North Sea at Berwick-upon-Tweed

Twee·dle·dum and Twee·dle·dee /twiːdlˌdʌm ənd twiːdlˈdiː/ two characters in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, who are fat, always quarrelling, and look exactly like each other. Their names are often used to

describe two people or groups who are almost exactly the same as one another, esp. when one seems to be as bad as the other: *There seems to be little to choose between the Tweedledum of one party and the Tweedledee of the other.*

tweeds /twiːdz/ *n* [P] (a suit of) tweed clothes, associated esp. with upper class people who live in the country

tweed·y /ˈtwiːdi/ *adj* **1** of or like tweed **2** *BrE often rather derog* dressed frequently in tweeds, or seeming to show a liking for healthy outdoor activities in the country: *tweedy ladies with thick leather walking shoes*

'tween /twiːn/ *prep poet* between

tweet /twiːt/ *v* [I] to make the short weak high noise of a small bird; CHIRP —**tweet** *n*

tweet·er /ˈtwiːtəʳ/ *n* a LOUDSPEAKER that gives out high sounds —compare WOOFER

twee·zers /ˈtwiːzəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] a small tool made from two narrow pieces of metal joined at one end, used for picking up, pulling out, and handling very small objects: *He pulled out the splinter with tweezers.* —see PAIR (USAGE)

twelfth /twelfθ/ *determiner, adv, n, pron* 12th —see TABLE 1; see also GLORIOUS TWELFTH

twelfth man /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*)] the member of a cricket team who plays if any other member of the team is hurt or cannot play

Twelfth Night /ˌ· ˈ·/ **1** the evening before EPIPHANY, formerly a time of great celebrations to mark the end of the CHRISTMAS period **2** a humorous play by William Shakespeare

twelve /twelv/ *determiner, n, pron* **1** (the number) 12 —see TABLE 1; see also DOZEN **2 twelve good men and true** a phrase used to describe the twelve people on a JURY

twelve·month /ˈtwelvmʌnθ/ *n* [S] *old-fash* a year

12-step pro·gram /ˌtwelv step ˈprəʊgræm/ *n AmE* RECOVERY PROGRAM

twen·ties /ˈtwentiz/ [P] *n* **1** [*the*] also **'20's**— the 1920s (=the years from 1920 to 1929): *Fitzgerald wrote about the lifestyle of wealthy Americans in the twenties.* **2 in his/her/their twenties** aged from 20 to 29: *She has three sons, all in their twenties.* **3** [*the*] the numbers from 20 to 29

20th Cen·tu·ry-Fox /ˌtwentiəθ sentʃəri ˈfɒks‖-ˈfɑːks/ *n* an American film production company

twen·ty /ˈtwenti/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 20 —see TABLE 1 —**-tieth** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

twenty-first /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *n BrE infml* a person's twenty-first birthday, often celebrated as a special occasion, e.g. with a party, because, in the past, people were given the legal rights of adults only when they were 21. In Britain cards sent to people for their 21st birthday often show a picture of a key, standing for the "key of the door" i.e. the right to act independently of one's parents. —see also ADULT (CULTURAL NOTE)

24 hour clock /ˌtwenti fɔːr aʊə ˈklɒk ‖ -aʊər ˈklɑːk/ *n* a clock, or a system of telling the time, according to which, for example, one O'CLOCK in the afternoon is called 1300 hours (pronounced "13 hundred hours"): *The trains run according to the 24 hour clock.*

twenty-one /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ [U] *AmE for* BLACKJACK (1)

20 Ques·tions /ˌtwenti ˈkwestʃənz/ also **Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral** *AmE*— a game in which one person thinks of an object and others have to guess what it is by asking questions about it which can be answered with yes or no

Twenty-Third Psalm , 23rd Psalm /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a well-known PSALM in the Bible that begins with the words "The Lord is my Shepherd"

twenty-twenty vi·sion , 20/20 vision /ˌ·· ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] perfect ability to see: *To be a pilot you must have twenty-twenty vision.*

twenty-two, ·22 /ˌtuː ˈtu/ *n AmE* a gun that takes a small bullet, used for hunting small animals

twerp, twirp /twɜːp‖twɜːrp/ *n infml* an annoying or silly person; fool

twice /twaɪs/ *predeterminer, adv* two times: *I've read the book twice.* | *He was shot twice in the chest.* (=with two bullets) | *I work twice as hard as him.* | *He eats twice what you eat|twice the amount that you eat.* | *Take the medicine twice a day.* | *performances twice daily* | *Since his holiday he's been twice the man he was.* (=he's been a lot healthier, more able, etc.) —see also **once or twice** (ONCE¹), **think twice** (THINK¹)

twice-told /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] *lit or old-fash* already told before; well known:*a twice-told tale*

Twick·en·ham /ˈtwɪkənəm/ an area in London famous as the place where the English Rugby Football Union ground is. RUGBY matches between England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and France take place there.

twid·dle¹ /ˈtwɪdl/ *v* **1** [I (**with**);T] to play with (something) with the hands, usu. purposelessly: *She irritated him by constantly twiddling (with) her pencil.* | *She twiddled the dial on the radio to see what stations she could pick up.* **2 twiddle one's thumbs** *infml* to do nothing useful or helpful; waste time

twiddle² *n infml* a small twist or turn, esp. a decorative or unnecessary one —**twiddly** *adj*

twig¹ /twɪg/ *n* a small very thin woody stem branching off from a branch on a tree or bush: *The bird built a nest from twigs.* —see also STICK¹ (1)

twig² *v* **-gg-** [I;T] *infml* to (suddenly) understand (a situation): *I dropped some hints, but he hasn't twigged yet.*

Twig·gy /ˈtwɪgi/ (1949–) an English model (Twiggy Lawson) who was popular esp. in the 1960s. She was known esp. for being very thin, and her appearance helped to spread the idea that thin women were very attractive. She is also an actress, and her films include *The Boyfriend.*

Twiggy



twi·light /ˈtwaɪlaɪt/ *n* [U] **1** the time when day is about to become night: (fig.) *old ladies in the twilight of their lives* | (fig.) *These secret agents occupy a* **twilight zone** *between legality and illegality.* **2** the faint darkish light in the sky during this time —compare DUSK —**-lit** /-lɪt/ *adj*

Twilight Zone /ˈ··, ˌ·/ an American television programme, shown from 1959 to 1963, which told a different story every week, usu. a FANTASY or SCIENCE FICTION one

twill /twɪl/ *n* [U] strong cloth woven to have parallel sloping lines across its surface

twin¹ /twɪn/ *n* **1** either of two children born of the same mother at the same time: *My brother and I look so alike that people often think we are twins.* | *Jean and John are twins.* —see also IDENTICAL TWIN, SIAMESE TWIN **2** either of two people or things closely related or connected, or very like each other —**twin** *adj* [A]: *a twin-engined plane* | *a policy to combat the twin problems of poverty and unemployment*

twin² *v* **-nn-** [T (**with**)] *esp. BrE* to join (a town) closely with another town in another country to encourage friendly relations: *Harlow in England is twinned with Stavanger in Norway.*

twin bed /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* **1** [*usu. pl.*] either of a pair of single beds in a room for two people —see picture at BED **2** *AmE* a single bed —**twin-bedded** /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* : *a twin-bedded room*

Twin Cit·ies /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*+P] the American cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, in Minnesota

twine¹ /twaɪn/ *n* [U] strong cord or string made by twisting together two or more threads or strings: *a ball of twine*

twine² *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] to twist or wind: *The stems of ivy twined round the tree trunk.* | *You make a rope by twining strings together.*

twinge /twɪndʒ/ *n* [(**of**)] a sudden sharp attack (of pain): *a twinge of toothache*/(fig.) *conscience*

Twi·nings /ˈtwaɪnɪŋz/ *tdmk* a British company that sells tea

Twin·kie /ˈtwɪŋki/ *n AmE tdmk* a sweet, sticky, yellow cake filled with a white sugary substance, eaten as a SNACK

Twinkies



►CULTURAL NOTE In a law case in the 1980s, a man who had shot and killed two public officials in San Francisco was defended in court on the grounds that his judgment was affected by eating too much sweet food. He won his case, and from it came the idea of the **Twinkie defence**, which people now use to describe a legal defence which uses strange and FARFETCHED arguments.◄

twin·kle[1] /ˈtwɪŋkəl/ *v* [I] **1** to shine through darkness with a soft light that rapidly changes from bright to faint: *twinkling stars* **2** [(**with**)] (of the eyes) to be bright with cheerfulness, pleasure, amusement, etc.

twinkle[2] *n* [(*the*) S] **1** a repeated momentary bright shining of light **2** a brightness in the eyes from cheerfulness, pleasure, amusement, etc.: *"I'm only teasing you," he said with a twinkle in his eye.* **3 when you were just a twinkle in your father's eye** *infml humor* at a time before you were born

Twinkle, twinkle, lit·tle star /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/ a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children):

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

twin·kling /ˈtwɪŋklɪŋ/ *n* **1** [S] *infml* a moment; very short period of time: *I'll be back in a twinkling.* **2 in the twinkling of an eye** in a very short time

twin·ning /ˈtwɪnɪŋ/ *n BrE* the action or result of joining a town closely with another town in another country to encourage friendly relations: *She works for the Council and is responsible for twinning.* | *a very successful twinning, with frequent exchanges between the two towns' schools*

twin set /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a woman's JUMPER (2) and CARDIGAN made to be worn together. Twin sets, often with a string of PEARLS, are associated with older, fairly upper-class, British women who support the Conservative party.

twin town /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a town which has been twinned (TWIN[2]) with another: *Oxford's twin town Bonn*

twin-tub /ˈ· ·/ *n* a type of washing machine with two parts, one for washing and the other for spin-drying: *I'm going to buy a twin-tub this time.*

twirl[1] /twɜːl‖twɜːrl/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) turn round and round quickly; (cause to) spin or wind round: *twirling round the dance floor* | *He twirled the keys round his fingers.* —**~er** *n*

twirl[2] *n* a sudden quick spin or circular movement —**twirly** *adj*

twirp /twɜːp‖twɜːrp/ *n* a TWERP

twist[1] /twɪst/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) change shape by bending, curling, or turning: *He twisted and turned, trying to free himself from the ropes.* | *Her face was twisted with pain.* | *The little girl twisted the wire into the shape of a star.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **round,** TOGETHER] to wind: *She twisted her hair round her fingers to make it curl.* | *Twist the two ends of the wire together.* (=join them by winding them round each other) **3** [I] to move in a winding course: *a twisting mountain road* **4** [T] to turn, esp. with a movement of the hand: *Twist that knob to the right and the box will open.* | *He twisted the cap off the bottle.* | *She twisted her head round to try and see what was happening.* **5** [T] to hurt (a joint or limb) by pulling and turning it sharply: *He's twisted his ankle.* **6** [T] *derog* to change the true or intended meaning of (a statement, words, etc.): *The newspapers deliberately twisted her words to make her look guilty.* **7 twist someone round one's little finger** *infml* to get someone to do whatever one wants; be able to persuade or influence someone to do anything **8 twist someone's arm: a** to bend someone's arm up and behind their back to cause pain **b** to persuade someone to do what one wants, by threats or by making a very forceful request

twist[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of twisting **2** [C] a bend: *a road with a lot of twists and turns in it* **3** [C] an unexpected change or development: *By a strange* **twist of fate** *they both died of the same disease.* | *There's an unusual twist at the end of the book — the detective is murdered.* **4** [C] something made by twisting two or more lengths together: *a twist of tobacco* (=a roll of tobacco leaves twisted together) **5** [*the*+S] a dance, popular in the 1960s, in which the dancers twist their bodies in time with fast noisy music **6** [C] a small piece of LEMON or LIME put in an alcoholic drink **7 round the twist** *BrE infml* mad —see also **get one's knickers in a twist** (KNICKERS[1]) —**twisty** *adj* : *a twisty road*

Twist , Ol·i·ver /ˈɒlɪvəʳ‖ˈɑː-/ the main character in Charles Dickens' NOVEL *Oliver Twist*. Oliver is a poor boy who lives in a WORKHOUSE. The most famous scene in the book is when he holds out his bowl and asks for more food. —see also OLIVER TWIST

twist·ed /ˈtwɪstɪd/ *adj* having unnatural and wicked feelings or desires: *a twisted mind/personality*

twist·er /ˈtwɪstəʳ/ *n infml* **1** a dishonest person who cheats other people **2** *AmE for* TORNADO or WHIRLWIND —see also TONGUE TWISTER

twist-tie /ˈ· ·/ *n* a short piece of thin wire, covered in paper or plastic, which is twisted around the open end of a plastic bag to close it

twit[1] /twɪt/ *n infml* a stupid fool

twit[2] *v* **-tt-** [T (**about, on, with**)] *BrE old-fash* to make fun of (someone) because of their foolish behaviour, a mistake, a fault, etc.; RIDICULE

twitch[1] /twɪtʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) make a quick short sudden movement, usu. without conscious control: *Your eye is twitching.* | *The horse twitched its ears.* | *His face twitched with pain.* **2** [T] to give a sudden quick pull to (something); JERK

twitch[2] *n* an act of twitching, esp. a repeated short sudden movement of a muscle, done without conscious control: *a nervous twitch* —compare TIC

twitch·y /ˈtwɪtʃi/ *adj* anxious about something and so behaving in a nervous way: *What are you so twitchy about?* | *I get twitchy for a cigarette if I don't have one for a couple of hours.*

twit·ter[1] /ˈtwɪtəʳ/ *v* [I] **1** (of a bird) to make a number of short rapid sounds **2** [(ON, **about**)] *infml derog* (of a person) to talk rapidly (as if) from nervous excitement: *He's always twittering on about unimportant things.*

twitter[2] *n* **1** [(**the**) S;U] short high rapid sounds made by birds **2** [S] *infml* a state of nervous excitement: *She's been* **all of a twitter** *since her daughter announced her engagement to the prince.* —**-tery** *adj*

Twit·ty /ˈtwɪti/, **Con·way** /ˈkɒnweɪ‖ˈkɑːn-/ (1933–93) an American COUNTRY AND WESTERN singer

twixt /twɪkst/ *prep pomp or poet* between

two /tuː/ *determiner, n, pron* **1** (the number) 2: *I've got one brother and two sisters.* | *twenty-two (=22)* | *two-thirds (=⅔)* | *a two-year jail sentence* | *He couldn't decide which violin to buy as he liked the two of them equally well.* | *Let's divide/break it* **in two.** (=into two parts) —see TABLE 1 **2 put two and two together (and make four/five)** *infml* to guess the meaning of what one sees or hears (and come to the correct/wrong answer): *"How did you know I was going abroad?" "I saw you had a travel book about Spain, and put two and two together."* **3 That makes two of us** I am in the same position as you: *"I think I'm getting a cold." "That makes two of us."* **4 Two can play at 'that game** (used as a threat) You are not the only one who can get advantages by behaving like that; I can too! **5 two's company, three's a crowd** *saying* a third person is not wanted by two people who are happy together: *I won't come to the cinema with you and Sharon; two's company, three's a crowd.* **6 Two wrongs don't make a right** *saying* an evil act is not put right or made good by doing another evil act —see also **one or two** (ONE[1]), **be two/ten a penny** (PENNY)

two-bit /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] **1** *AmE infml derog* of small importance; INSIGNIFICANT **2 two-bit piece** *old-fash* a quarter; 25c

two-by-four, 2 × 4 /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* a piece of wood of any length that is about two inches thick and four inches wide. It is the standard size of wood for housebuilding in the US.

two cents /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* **1** a very small amount of money: *I wouldn't give you two cents for that old beater.* **2 two cents worth** one's (unwelcome) opinion about a subject

being discussed: *Here comes Robert, I suppose we'll have to hear his two cents worth.*

2CV /ˌtuː siː ˈviː/ *n* see DEUX-CHEVAUX

two-edged /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** having two cutting edges: *a two-edged sword* **2** having two possible meanings or results, one favourable and one unfavourable: *a two-edged argument*

two·faced /ˌtuːˈfeɪst◂/ *adj derog* deceitful or insincere

two-hand·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** used with or using both hands: *a heavy two-handed sword | the tennis player's two-handed backhand* **2** (esp. of a tool) worked by or needing two people: *a two-handed saw*

two-line whip /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* an order given to Members of the British Parliament which is less urgent than a THREE-LINE WHIP

two-min·ute si·lence /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ *n* a period of two minutes at 11 o'clock on Remembrance Sunday, in which people in Britain remain silent to remember the people who died in the two World Wars

two-one /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) the higher of the two levels of a second-class university degree: *He got a two-one.* —see DEGREE (CULTURAL NOTE)

two·pence also **tuppence** *BrE* /ˈtʌpəns‖ˈtʌpəns, ˈtuːpens/ *n* **1** [U] two pence (old or new) **2** [C] a British coin worth two pence: the twopence is a silver coin, now used only as MAUNDY MONEY **3 not care/give twopence** *BrE infml* not to care at all **4 not give someone twopence for** *BrE infml* not to be interested in having

two·pen·ny also **tuppenny** *BrE infml* /ˈtʌpəni‖ˈtʌpəni, ˈtuːpeni/ *adj* [A] **1** costing two pence **2** also **twopenny-half·pen·ny** /ˌ··· ˈ··/— *BrE infml* almost worthless; of very little value

two-per·cent milk /ˈ· ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *AmE for* SEMI-SKIMMED MILK

two-piece /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] consisting of two matching parts: *a two-piece suit* (=with JACKET and trousers)

two-ply /ˈ· ˌ·/ *adj* consisting of two sets of thread or two thicknesses: *two-ply tissues*

Two Ron·nies /ˌtuː ˈrɒniz‖-ˈrɑː-/, **The** a popular British television COMEDY programme of the 1970s, which had Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker as the main performers

two·some /ˈtuːsəm/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* two people or things; pair: *John and Helen make a nice twosome, don't you think?*

two-star /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] of a fairly good standard or quality: *a two-star restaurant*

two-step /ˈ· ·/ *n* (a piece of music for) a dance with long sliding steps

two-stroke /ˈ· ·/ *adj, n* (of, being, or powered by) an INTERNAL-COMBUSTION ENGINE in which all the events happening inside the engine are completed in one up-and-down movement of a PISTON —compare FOUR-STROKE

Two Thou·sand Guin·eas , 2000 Guineas /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a famous British horse race run at Newmarket

two-time /ˈ· ·/ *v* [T] *infml* to be unfaithful to (a girlfriend or boyfriend) by having a secret relationship with someone else —**two-timer** *n*

two-tone /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] coloured in two colours or in two varieties of one colour: *two-tone shoes*

two-two /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) the lower of the two levels of a second-class university degree: *He only got a two-two.* —see DEGREE (CULTURAL NOTE)

two-way /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** moving or allowing movement in both directions: *a two-way street | two-way traffic* **2** (of radio equipment) for sending and receiving signals

two-way mir·ror /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a mirror that can be seen through when looked at from the back, used for watching people secretly

TX *written abbrev. for:* TEXAS

ty·coon /taɪˈkuːn/ *n* a businessman or industrialist with great wealth and power: *a business tycoon*

ty·ing /ˈtaɪ-ɪŋ/ *present participle of* TIE

Ty·le·nol /ˈtaɪlənɒl‖-nɔːl/ *n tdmk* a medicine that reduces pain and fever; it does not contain ASPIRIN

Ty·ler /ˈtaɪləʳ/, **John** (1790–1862) the president of the US from 1841 to 1845

Tyler , Wat /wɒt‖wɑːt/ (died 1381) an English REBEL who led the PEASANTS' REVOLT

tym·pa·num /ˈtɪmpənəm/ *n* **-na** /nə/ *or* **-nums** *med for* EARDRUM

Tyn·dale /ˈtɪndəl/, **William** (1492–1536) an English translator of the Bible

Tyne /taɪn/ [*the*] a river in NE England, flowing through Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the North Sea —see colour map on page 818

Tyne and Wear /ˌtaɪn ənd ˈwɪəʳ/ a METROPOLITAN COUNTY in NE England, made up of parts of Northumberland and Durham, and including Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Tyne·side /ˈtaɪnsaɪd/ the built-up area on the banks of the Tyne from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the E coast. Tyneside is noted for its failing industries, such as building ships and digging for coal, and for unemployment.

Tyne-Tees /ˈ· ˌ·/ one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, sending out programmes to NE England

Tyn·wald /ˈtɪnwəld/ [*the*] the parliament of the Isle of Man

type[1] /taɪp/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a particular kind, class, or group; group or class of people or things that share certain qualities and are different from those outside the group or class: *a new/common type of camera | Macaroni is a type of pasta. | What type of plant is this? | She's the type of person I admire. | I like Italian-type ice cream. | The store sells most types of wine. | There have been several incidents of this type in recent weeks.* —see also TYPICAL **2** [C;U] (any of the) small blocks of metal or wood with raised letters on them, used in printing **3** [U] printed letters: *italic type* **4** [C] a person of the stated kind: *She's an odd type.| a sporty type | He's not really my type.* (=the sort of person that attracts me) **5** *fml* a person or thing that has all the characteristics of a particular group or class; standard example —see also **bad type** (BAD[1] (9)), **true to type** (TRUE[1])

type[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to write with a typewriter or using a WORD PROCESSOR: *He types with only two fingers.* —see also TYPIST **2** [T] *tech* to find out the type of (something): *The doctor was unable to type the rare disease.*

type·cast /ˈtaɪpkɑːst‖-kæst/ *v* **-cast** [T] to repeatedly give (an actor) the same kind of part: *He's been typecast as a murderer because he looks rather sinister.*

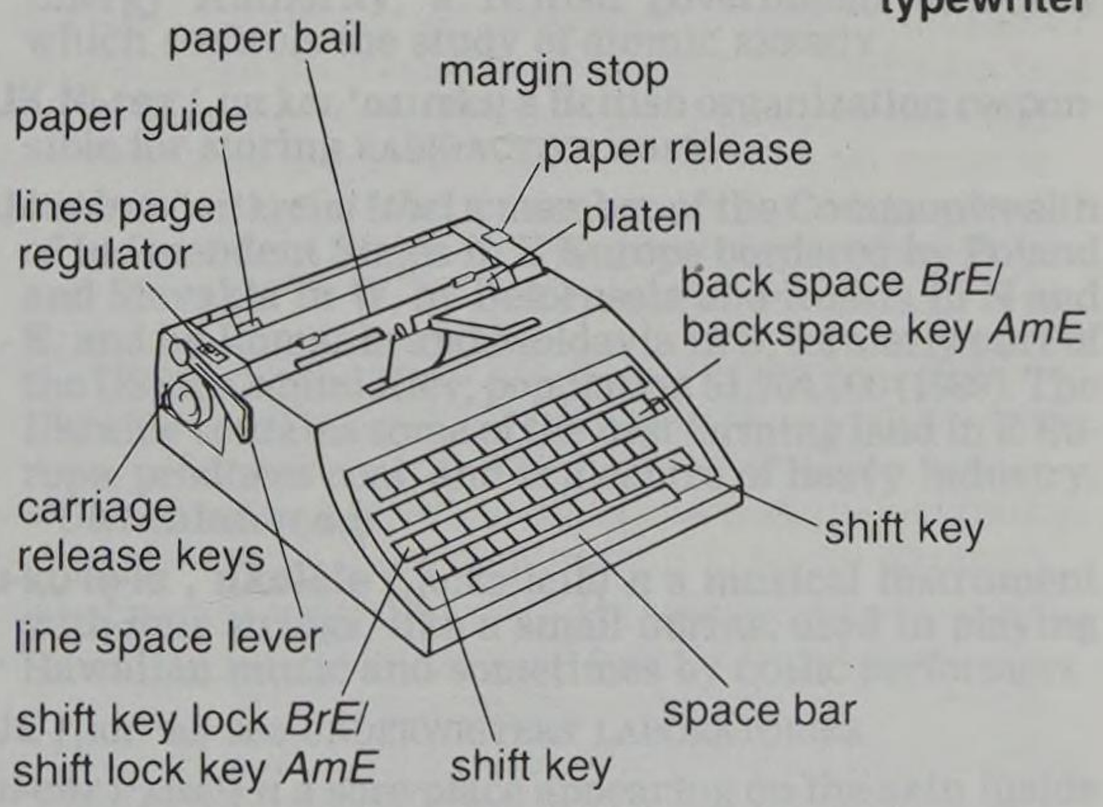
type·face /ˈtaɪpfeɪs/ also **face**— *n* a group of letters, numbers, and other characters of the same size and style used in printing

type·script /ˈtaɪpˌskrɪpt/ *n* a typewritten copy of something, esp. as prepared for being printed

type·set·ter /ˈtaɪpˌsetəʳ/ *n* a person or machine that arranges or sets type for printing

type·set·ting /ˈtaɪpsetɪŋ/ *n* [U] the activity or profession of arranging type for printing: *She works in typesetting. | How much will the typesetting for this cost?*

typewriter



type·writ·er /ˈtaɪpˌraɪtəʳ/ *n* a machine that prints letters by means of keys which when struck by the fingers press onto paper through a long narrow piece of ink-filled material (RIBBON): *an electric/portable typewriter*

type·writ·ten /ˈtaɪpˌrɪtn/ *adj* written using a typewriter

ty·phoid /ˈtaɪfɔɪd/ also **typhoid fe·ver** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *fml*— *n* [U]

a serious infectious disease that attacks the bowel, causing fever, severe discomfort, and often death, produced by bacteria that get into the body by means of food or drink

Typhoid Ma·ry /ˌ·· ˈ··/ (died 1938) an Irishwoman in the US who was found to be a carrier of typhoid, and thought to have infected many people with it. The name is sometimes used to describe a person who is expected to cause widespread trouble and is therefore avoided.

Ty·phoo /taɪˈfuː/ *n tdmk* [U] a well-known kind of tea sold in Britain

ty·phoon /taɪˈfuːn/ *n* a very violent tropical storm with a circular wind in the western Pacific —compare CYCLONE, HURRICANE; see STORM (USAGE)

ty·phus /ˈtaɪfəs/ *n* [U] an infectious disease, carried by lice (LOUSE) and FLEAS, that causes severe fever, very bad headaches, red spots over the body, and nervous sickness

typ·i·cal /ˈtɪpɪkəl/ *adj* [(**of**)] **1** showing the main signs or qualities of a particular kind, group, or class; representative of its type: *a typical British summer | a typical 18th century church | This painting is fairly typical of his early work.* **2** showing the usual behaviour or manner; CHARACTERISTIC: *It was typical of him to be so rude. | (infml) "I'm afraid I forgot your book again." "Typical!"*

typ·i·cally /ˈtɪpɪkli/ *adv* **1** in a typical manner: *He's typically American.* **2** in a typical case or in typical conditions: *Typically, he would come in late and then say he had to go early. | The disease typically takes several weeks to appear.*

typ·i·fy /ˈtɪpɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** [*not in progressive forms*] to be a typical mark or sign of: *the high quality that typifies all his work* **2** [*not in progressive forms*] to be a typical example of: *The shoe-shine boy who becomes a millionaire typifies the American Dream.* **3** *fml* to represent in a typical manner, e.g. by an image, model, or likeness: *In this book we have tried to typify the main classes of verbs.*

typing pool /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a group of typists in a large office who type letters for any members of the office

typ·ist /ˈtaɪpɪst/ *n* **1** a secretary employed mainly for typing (TYPE[2]) letters —see also SHORTHAND TYPIST **2** a person who uses a TYPEWRITER: *He's a good typist|a slow typist.*

ty·po /ˈtaɪpəʊ/ *n infml* a typographic mistake

ty·pog·ra·pher /taɪˈpɒgrəfəʳ‖-ˈpɑː-/ *n* **1** a printer **2** a TYPESETTER; COMPOSITOR **3** a person who DESIGNS TYPEFACES

ty·po·graph·ic /ˌtaɪpəˈgræfɪk◂/ also **ty·po·graph·ic·al** /-kəl/— *adj* of typography: *It shouldn't say "Englihs"; that's a* **typographic error.** —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

ty·pog·ra·phy /taɪˈpɒgrəfi‖-ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the work of preparing and setting material for printing **2** the arrangement, style, and appearance of printed matter

ty·ran·ni·cal /tɪˈrænɪkəl/ also **tyr·an·nous** /ˈtɪrənəs/— *adj* severely and unjustly cruel, esp. in exercising power: *his tyrannical rule | her tyrannical father* —see also TYRANT —**~cally** /kli/ *adv*

tyr·an·nize also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈtɪrənaɪz/ *v* [T] to use power over (a person, country, etc.) with unjust cruelty

ty·ran·no·sau·rus /tɪˌrænəˈsɔːrəs/ also **tyrannosaurus rex** /···ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* a large fierce flesh-eating DINOSAUR

tyr·an·ny /ˈtɪrəni/ *n* **1** [U] the use of power cruelly and/or unjustly to rule a person or country: *the tyranny of a police state* **2** [C *often pl.*] a cruel or unjust act, esp. by a person in power **3** [U] government by a ruler with complete power, usu. gained by unjust means: (fig.) *the tyranny of the clock, which makes us get up when we don't want to*

ty·rant /ˈtaɪərənt/ *n* a ruler with complete power, usu. gained unjustly and by force, who rules cruelly and unjustly —see also TYRANNICAL

tyre *BrE* ‖ **tire** *AmE* /taɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a thick band of rubber, either solid or filled with air, that fits round the outside edge of a wheel, esp. on a motor vehicle or bicycle, as a running surface and to soften shocks: *a punctured|burst tyre | There's no tread on this tyre* (=the surface has become smooth) *— you should put on|fit a new one. | to blow up|inflate a tyre* (=put air into it) —see also SPARE TYRE, and see pictures at BICYCLE and CAR **2** a protective metal band fitted round a wooden wheel

tyre pres·sure /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the pressure of air inside a particular tyre: *The current tyre pressure for this car is 40 pounds per square inch. | Check the tyre pressures with a tyre pressure gauge.*

ty·ro, tiro /ˈtaɪərəʊ/ *n BrE old-fash fml* a beginner; person with little experience

Ty·rol /tɪˈrəʊl/ [*the*] see TIROL

Ty·rone /tɪˈrəʊn/ a former COUNTY of W Northern Ireland, bordered to the W by County Donegal

Tyson /ˈtaɪsən/, **Mike** (1966–) an American BOXER who was the World HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION from 1986–1990. In 1992 he was sent to prison for RAPE (=forcing a woman to have sex).

tzar /zɑːʳ, tsɑːʳ/ *n* a TSAR

tza·ri·na /zɑːˈriːnə, tsɑː-/ *n* a TSARINA

tze·tze fly /ˈtetsi flaɪ, ˈtsetsi-, ˈsetsi-/ *n* a TSETSE FLY

U

U[1], **u** /juː/ **U's, u's** *or* **Us, us** the 21st letter of the English alphabet

U[2] *adj BrE old-fash infml or humor* of a word or action/used by or typical of the UPPER CLASS; correct or socially proper: *It isn't U to call the midday meal "dinner".* –opposite **non-U**

U[3] *n, adj* (in Britain) (a film) that has been officially accepted as suitable for all age groups –compare PG; see also G

U2 /ˌjuː ˈtuː/ an Irish popular music group from Dublin, successful in the 1980s and known esp. for their political songs

UAE /ˌjuː eɪ ˈiː/ *abbrev. for* UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UB40 /ˌjuː biː ˈfɔːti ‖ -ˈfɔːr-/ *n* (in Britain) an official card which shows that a person, named on the card, is receiving UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT: *reduced entry fee for UB40 holders*

u·biq·ui·tous /juːˈbɪkwɨtəs/ *adj fml* (esp. of something that is not liked or approved of) appearing, happening, or existing everywhere: *We were plagued throughout our travels by the ubiquitous mosquito.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

U-boat /ˈjuː bəʊt/ *n* a German SUBMARINE, esp. as used in the Second World War

UCCA /ˈʌkə/ the Universities Central Council on Admissions; an official body in Britain which receives and deals with people's requests to study for degrees at universities –see also CLEARING (2)

UCCA Hand·book /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the book, produced by UCCA, which lists the courses available at British universities and the levels at which one usually needs to pass examinations to gain entrance to them

UCLA /ˌjuː siː el ˈeɪ/ the University of California at Los Angeles; one of the branches of the state-supported University of California, known esp. for its sports teams

UDA /ˌjuː diː ˈeɪ/ [*the*] the Ulster Defence Association; an illegal Protestant PARAMILITARY organization in Northern Ireland, which takes violent action in opposition to the actions of the IRA

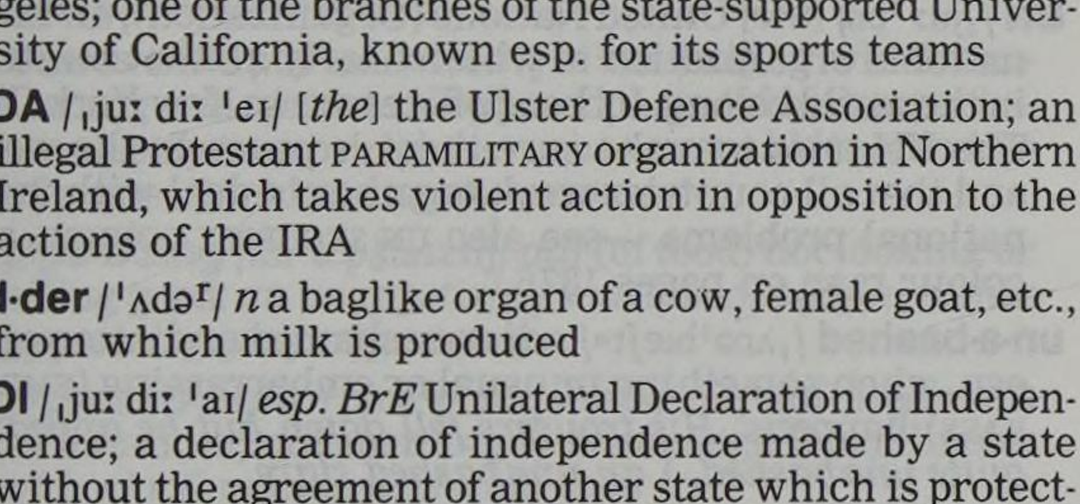
ud·der /ˈʌdəʳ/ *n* a baglike organ of a cow, female goat, etc., from which milk is produced

UDI /ˌjuː diː ˈaɪ/ *esp. BrE* Unilateral Declaration of Independence; a declaration of independence made by a state without the agreement of another state which is protecting it: *Rhodesia declared UDI in 1965.*

UDM /ˌjuː diː ˈem/ [*the*] the Union of Democratic Mineworkers; a British TRADE UNION formed by a group of mineworkers who disagreed with the action and views of the NUM during the miners' STRIKE[2] (1) of 1984–85

UDR /ˌjuː diː ˈɑːʳ/ [*the*] the Ulster Defence Regiment; a PARAMILITARY force set up by the British government in 1969 to work with the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The UDR has become closely connected with the British Army, and members of the UDR, which is made up of Northern Irish people, have often been attacked by the IRA. In 1992 the UDR joined with the Royal Irish Rangers to become the Royal Irish Regiment.

UFO



UFO /ˈjuːfəʊ, ˌjuː ef ˈəʊ/ *n* **UFO's** *or* **UFOs** an Unidentified Flying Object; a strange object in the sky, often thought to be a spacecraft piloted by creatures from another world. Not many people believe that UFOs really exist, but they often appear in SCIENCE FICTION stories and films: *UFO sightings*

U·gan·da /juːˈgændə/ a country in E central Africa bordered by Tanzania, Rwanda, and Sudan; capital Kampala; population 17,804,000 (1989) –**-dan** *n,adj*

ugh /ʊx, ʌg/ *interj* (an expression of strong dislike): *Ugh! This medicine tastes awful!*

ug·ly /ˈʌgli/ *adj* **1** unpleasant to look at; extremely unattractive: *his ugly face | ugly houses/furniture/surroundings* **2** very unpleasant or threatening: *An ugly scene developed when some people in the crowd started fighting. | an ugly wound | Those clouds look ugly; we may have rain. | We were having quite a friendly discussion until politics* **reared its ugly head.** (=began to be talked about, with unpleasant results) **3 ugly as sin** very ugly –**-liness** *n* [U]

Ugly A·mer·i·can /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [(*the*)] an American abroad who behaves offensively, esp. in a way that attracts attention

ugly duck·ling /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n infml* a person less attractive, skilful, etc., than others in early life but developing beyond them later (from a story in which a baby bird, thought to be an ugly DUCKLING, grows up to be a beautiful SWAN): *I've been an ugly duckling for too long to believe my transformation into a swan will last.*

Ugly Sis·ters /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [(*the*)+P] the sisters of Cinderella. The Ugly Sisters are typical PANTOMIME characters, usu. played by male actors –see also CINDERELLA and see colour picture on page 357

UHF /ˌjuː eɪtʃ ˈef/ *n* [U] ultrahigh frequency; (the sending out of radio waves at) the rate of 300,000,000 to 3,000,000,000 HERTZ, producing excellent sound quality: *a UHF television set* –compare VHF

uh-huh /ˈʌ hʌ‖ʌ ˈhʌ/ *interj infml* yes

UHT milk /ˌjuː eɪtʃ tiː ˈmɪlk/ *n* [U] (in Britain) milk which has been heated to a very high temperature to kill bacteria which would otherwise cause it to turn sour, and therefore can be kept for longer than ordinary milk

UK /ˌjuː ˈkeɪ/ n [*the*] the United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

▷USAGE The full formal title of the country is **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,** usually shortened to **the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom** includes **Great Britain** and **Northern Ireland. Great Britain** includes **England, Scotland,** and **Wales,** but not any part of **Ireland.** In less formal language, **Great Britain** is sometimes used to mean the same as **the United Kingdom.** In ordinary language, the expressions most often used are **Britain** and **the UK.** For **Great Britain, Ireland,** and all the other islands round about, **the British Isles** can be used.◁

UKAEA /ˌjuː keɪ eɪ iː ˈeɪ/ [*the*] the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority; a British government authority which controls the study of atomic ENERGY

UK Ni·rex /ˌjuː keɪ ˈnaɪreks/ a British organization responsible for storing RADIOACTIVE waste

U·kraine /juːˈkreɪn/ [*the*] a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States in E Europe bordered by Poland and Slovakia in W, by Belorussia and Russia in N and E, and by Romania and Moldavia in S; formerly part of the USSR. Capital Kiev; population 51,704,000 (1989). The Ukraine contains some of the best farming land in E Europe; produces coal, and is a centre of heavy industry. –**Ukranian** *n,adj*

u·ku·le·le , ukelele /ˌjuːkəˈleɪli/ *n* a musical instrument with four strings, like a small GUITAR, used in playing Hawaiian music and sometimes by COMIC performers

UL /ˌjuː ˈel/ see UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES

ul·cer /ˈʌlsəʳ/ *n* a sore place appearing on the skin inside or outside the body which may bleed or produce poisonous matter: *a stomach ulcer | mouth ulcers* –~**ous** *adj*

ul·cer·ate /ˈʌlsəreɪt/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) turn into or become covered with one or more ulcers –**-ation** /ˌʌlsəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U]

ul·lage /ˈʌlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] *tech* the amount by which the liquid,

esp. wine, in an unopened bottle does not come up to the top; amount of air in a bottle

Ulls·wa·ter /ˈʌlzwɔːtəʳ‖-wɔː-, -wɑː-/ one of the lakes in the LAKE DISTRICT, NW England, to the E of Keswick

ul·na /ˈʌlnə/ *n med* the inner bone of the lower arm, on the side opposite to the thumb —see picture at SKELETON

Ul·ster /ˈʌlstəʳ/ **1** another name for Northern Ireland, used esp. in newspapers and broadcasting: *the troubles in Ulster* **2** an area in the N of Ireland, consisting of the six counties (COUNTY) of Northern Ireland and the Ulster PROVINCE of the Republic of Ireland (County Cavan, County Monaghan, and County Donegal)

Ulster De·fence As·so·ci·a·tion /ˌ·· ·ˈ· ···ˌ··/ [*the*] see UDA

Ulster Defence Re·gi·ment /ˌ·· ·ˈ· ˌ···/ [*the*] see UDR

Ulster Dem·o·crat·ic U·nion·ist Par·ty /ˌ·· ˌ···· ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*] a Northern Ireland Protestant political party formed in 1969 and led by the Reverend Ian Paisley, often seen as attracting the support of those holding extreme views

Ulster Free·dom Fight·ers /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*+P] a PARAMILITARY group in Northern Ireland which is the armed branch of the UDA

Ulster U·nion·ists /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [P] a group of three PROTESTANT political parties in Northern Ireland, who want Northern Ireland to remain part of the UK. The three Ulster Unionist parties are: the official Unionist Party, connected with the British Conservative Party, the Ulster Popular Unionist Party, and the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party, led by the Reverend Ian Paisley.

Ulster Vol·un·teer Force /ˌ·· ··ˈ· ˌ·/ (also **UVF**) [*the*] a Protestant TERRORIST organization in Ireland which has been illegal since 1966

Ulster Vol·un·teers /ˌ·· ··ˈ·/ [*the* +P] a private army set up in 1913 to prevent Irish Home Rule

ult /ʌlt/ *BrE fml, becoming rare* (used after a date in business letters) of last month: *the meeting held on the 24th ult*

ul·te·ri·or /ʌlˈtɪəriəʳ/ *adj* intentionally hidden or kept secret, esp. because bad: *I suspect he may have had* **ulterior motives** *for being so generous.*

ul·ti·mate[1] /ˈʌltɨmɨt/ *adj* [A] **1** being or happening at the end of a process or course of action; FINAL: *They're going to London first, but their ultimate destination is Rome.* | *Their ultimate objective is the removal of all nuclear weapons.* **2** considered as an origin or base; FUNDAMENTAL: *The sun is the ultimate source of energy.* | *The ultimate responsibility lies with the president.* **3** *infml* greatest; better or worse than any other: *To look for the gas leak with a lighted match really was the ultimate stupidity.* | *With a top speed of 200 miles per hour, this is the ultimate sports car.*

ultimate[2] *n* [*the*+S **(in)**] the ULTIMATE [1] (3) thing; the highest point: *the ultimate in stupidity|in luxury*

ul·ti·mate·ly /ˈʌltɨmɨtli/ *adv* in the end; after everything or everyone else has been taken into account: *Ultimately, the success of the product depends on good marketing.* | *Many experts gave their opinions, but ultimately the decision lay with the president.*

ul·ti·ma·tum /ˌʌltɨˈmeɪtəm/ *n* **-tums** *or* **-ta** /tə/ a last statement of conditions that must be met, esp. under threat of force: *He gave his daughter an ultimatum: unless she stopped taking drugs he would throw her out of the house.*| *to deliver|issue an ultimatum*

ultra- see WORD FORMATION

ul·tra·high fre·quen·cy /ˌʌltrəhaɪ ˈfriːkwənsi/ *n* [U] see UHF

ul·tra·ma·rine /ˌʌltrəməˈriːn◂/ *adj* having a very bright blue colour —**ultramarine** *n* [U]

ul·tra·son·ic /ˌʌltrəˈsɒnɪk◂‖-ˈsɑː-/ *adj* (of a sound wave) beyond the range of human hearing

ultra·sound /ˈʌltrəsaʊnd/ *n* [U] sound that is too high for human beings to hear: *They examined the baby in her womb using an ultrasound scanner.*

ul·tra·vi·o·let /ˌʌltrəˈvaɪəlɨt◂/ *adj* **1** (of light that is) beyond the purple end of the range of colours (SPECTRUM) that can be seen by human beings: *ultraviolet rays* —compare INFRARED **2** [A] using this light to cure certain skin diseases, examine old writing, etc.: *an ultraviolet lamp*

U·lu·ru /ˈuːlʊruː/ the Australian Aboriginal name for Ayers Rock

U·lys·ses /juːˈlɪsiːz/ **1** the Latin name for Odysseus **2** a NOVEL by James Joyce, regarded by many as one of the greatest works of literature of the 20th century

um /ʌm, əm/ *interj* (used when one cannot decide what to say next): *And then he ... um ... just seemed to ... um ... disappear!*

um·ber /ˈʌmbəʳ/ *adj* having a brown earthlike colour, esp. as used in painting —**umber** *n* [U]

um·bil·i·cal cord /ʌmˌbɪlɪkəl ˈkɔːd‖-ˈkɔːrd/ *n* the long narrow tube of flesh which before birth joins the young to the organ which feeds it inside the mother: *The nurse cut the baby's umbilical cord.*

um·brage /ˈʌmbrɪdʒ/ *n fml* **take umbrage (at)** to show that one's feelings have been hurt (by); take offence

um·brel·la /ʌmˈbrelə/ *n* **1** an arrangement of cloth over a folding frame with a handle, used for keeping rain off the head: *It began to rain so she put up|opened her umbrella.*| *an umbrella stand* —compare SUNSHADE **2** a protecting power or influence; protection: *The new country was formed under the political umbrella of the United Nations.* **3** something which covers or includes a wide range of different parts: *The Association of Councils is just an umbrella organization; it has no real power of its own.*

UMIST /ˈjuːmɪst/ University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology; a branch of the University of Manchester which teaches science and technical subjects like CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

um·laut /ˈʊmlaʊt/ *n* a sign (··) placed over a German vowel letter to show how it is pronounced —compare DIAERESIS

um·pire[1] /ˈʌmpaɪəʳ/ also **ump** /ʌmp/ *AmE infml n* a judge in charge of a game —see REFEREE (USAGE), and see pictures at BASEBALL, at CRICKET, and at TENNIS

umpire[2] ‖ also **ump** *AmE infml*– *v* [I;T] to act as an umpire for (a game or competition)

ump·teen /ˌʌmpˈtiːn◂/ *determiner, pron infml* a large number (of): *I've seen that film umpteen times.* —**teenth** *n, determiner* : *For the umpteenth time, don't do that!*

'un /ən/ *pron infml or nonstandard* one: *He's a bad 'un.* (=a wicked immoral person) | *I'll take those apples; they look like good 'uns.*

un- see WORD FORMATION

UN /ˌjuː ˈen/ [*the*] United Nations (Organization); an international organization to which nearly all the countries in the world belong. Its head offices are in New York City. The UN tries to make sure there is peace in the world and that all countries work together to deal with international problems. —see also UN SECURITY COUNCIL and colour map on pages 1376

un·a·bashed /ˌʌnəˈbæʃt◂/ *adj* not ashamed or discouraged, esp. when something unusual or embarrassing (EMBARRASS) happens: *His trousers fell down but he appeared quite unabashed.* | *an unabashed stare*

un·a·bat·ed /ˌʌnəˈbeɪtɨd◂/ *adj fml* (of a wind, a person's strength, etc.) without losing force: *The storm continued unabated|with unabated violence.*

un·a·ble /ʌnˈeɪbəl/ *adj* [F+*to-v*] *rather fml* not able: *He seems unable to understand the simplest instructions.* | *I'd like to go, but I'm unable to.* —see also INABILITY

un·a·bridged /ˌʌnəˈbrɪdʒd◂/ *adj* (esp. of something written, a speech, etc.) given in its full form; not shortened: *complete and unabridged*

un·ac·cep·ta·ble /ˌʌnəkˈseptəbəl◂/ *adj* not good enough to be accepted or approved: *unacceptable behaviour* | *Mass unemployment is* **the unacceptable face of** (=something bad which comes with) *modern technology.* | *Violent crime has reached an unacceptable level.*

un·ac·com·pa·nied /ˌʌnəˈkʌmpənid◂/ *adj* **1** [**(by)**] without someone or something else going too: *Children unaccompanied by an adult|Unaccompanied children will not be admitted.* **2** without music as ACCOMPANIMENT (2): *an unaccompanied song*

un·ac·coun·ta·ble /ˌʌnəˈkaʊntəbəl◂/ *adj fml* very surprising; not easily explained: *His disappearance was quite unaccountable.* —compare ACCOUNTABLE; see also ACCOUNT **for** (1) —**-bly** *adv*: *He was unaccountably delayed.*

unaccounted for /·· ˈ·· ·/ *adj* not explained, found, or understood: *Five men are still unaccounted for after yesterday's mining accident.* | *an unaccounted for change in the weather*

un·ac·cus·tomed /ˌʌnəˈkʌstəmd◂/ *adj* **1** [A] not usual: *his unaccustomed silence* **2** [F+**to**] not used to (something).

People who are making a speech sometimes begin, as a joke, with the words "Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking..."

un·a·dopt·ed /ˌʌnəˈdɒptɨd◂‖-ˈdɑːp-/ *adj BrE* (of a road surface) not to be repaired by the town council, but the responsibility of those who live on the road

un·a·dul·te·rat·ed /ˌʌnəˈdʌltəreɪtɨd◂/ *adj* **1** (esp. of food) not mixed with impure or less pure substances **2** [A] complete; UTTER: *unadulterated nonsense*

un·ad·vised /ˌʌnədˈvaɪzd◂/ *adj fml* not sensible; done without thinking or taking advice: *an unadvised haste* —~**ly** /ˌʌnədˈvaɪzɨdli/ *adv*

un·af·fect·ed /ˌʌnəˈfektɨd◂/ *adj* **1** [(**by**)] not affected (AFFECT[1]): *People in the south of the country were unaffected by the drought.* **2** *apprec* natural in behaviour or character: *the unaffected delight of a child* —~**ly** *adv*

un·aid·ed /ʌnˈeɪdɨd/ *adv* without help: *It was the first time she had walked unaided since the accident.*

un·al·loyed /ˌʌnəˈlɔɪd◂/ *adj esp. lit* not mixed, esp. with unpleasant feelings: *unalloyed happiness*

un·am·big·u·ous /ˌʌnæmˈbɪgjuəs◂/ *adj* clear; that cannot be misunderstood: *unambiguous remarks*

un-A·mer·i·can /ˌʌ·əˈ···◂/ *adj* (esp. of political activity and loyalty) unfavourable or opposed to the US; thought to be against American customs and ways: *He was accused of* **un-American activities.** —see also HUAC

u·na·nim·i·ty /ˌjuːnəˈnɪmɨti/ *n* [U] *fml* the state or fact of being unanimous

u·nan·i·mous /juːˈnænɨməs/ *adj* **1** (of people) all agreeing completely: *Politicians from all parties were (completely) unanimous in condemning his action.* [+*that*] *The committee were unanimous that the application should be turned down.* **2** (of a decision, statement, etc.) supported or agreed by everyone: *The vote for the motion was unanimous.* | *He was elected Club President by a unanimous decision.* —~**ly** *adv*

un·an·nounced /ˌʌnəˈnaʊnst◂/ *adj* having given no sign of arriving or being present; appearing unexpectedly: *He burst into the doctor's room quite unannounced and started shouting at her.*

un·an·swe·ra·ble /ʌnˈɑːnsərəbəl‖ʌnˈæn-/ *adj* **1** which cannot be argued against or opposed, esp. (of a charge) because clearly true or right: *an unanswerable case in law* **2** (of a question) having no answer

un·ap·pe·ti·zing /ʌnˈæpɨtaɪzɪŋ/ *adj* (of food) not looking or smelling good: *an unappetizing smell|meal* | *(fig) a rather unappetizing project|prospect*

un·ap·proach·a·ble /ˌʌnəˈprəʊtʃəbəl◂/ *adj* (of a person) hard to talk to; not seeming to encourage friendliness: *a cold, aloof, unapproachable man*

un·armed /ˌʌnˈɑːmd◂‖-ˈɑːr-/ *adj* **1** not carrying a weapon **2** [A] using no weapons: *unarmed combat*

unarmed com·bat /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] fighting without weapons: *The Royal Marines are as skilled in unarmed combat as they are in weapon-handling.*

un·asked /ʌnˈɑːskt‖-ˈæskt/ *adv* without being asked: *I love it when he does the washing-up unasked.*

un·as·sum·ing /ˌʌnəˈsjuːmɪŋ◂, -ˈsuː-‖-ˈsuː-/ *adj apprec* not showing a wish to be noticed or given special treatment; modest: *the champion's unassuming manner* —~**ly** *adv*

un·at·tached /ˌʌnəˈtætʃt◂/ *adj* **1** not married or ENGAGED (1) **2** [(**to**)] not connected: *unattached buildings*

un·at·tend·ed /ˌʌnəˈtendɨd◂/ *adj* alone, without people present or in charge: *Your car may get damaged here if you leave it unattended.* | *unattended luggage*

un·au·thor·ized /ʌnˈɔːθəraɪzd/ *adj* without the approval or support of the person, body, etc. involved: *an unauthorized biography*

un·a·vail·ing /ˌʌnəˈveɪlɪŋ◂/ *adj esp. lit* not having any effect; FUTILE: *an unavailing attempt to save her*

un·a·void·a·ble /ˌʌnəˈvɔɪdəbəl◂/ *adj* that cannot be avoided; impossible to escape: *The latest consignment was subject to unavoidable delays.* —**-ably** *adv* : *I'm sorry I'm late; I was unavoidably detained.*

un·a·ware /ˌʌnəˈweəʳ/ *adj* [F (**of**)] not having knowledge or consciousness (of something): *He seemed to be unaware of the trouble he was causing.* [+*that*] *He was completely unaware that he was being watched.*

un·a·wares /ˌʌnəˈweəz‖-ˈweərz/ *adv* **1** unexpectedly or without warning: *I think I must have* **taken/caught her unawares** (=surprised her by my presence), *because she looked round guiltily when I called her name.* **2** *fml or lit* unintentionally or without noticing: *He dropped it unawares.*

un·bal·ance /ˌʌnˈbæləns/ *v* [T] to make slightly mad: *His terrible experience unbalanced him|his mind.* | *an unbalanced person|character* —compare BALANCED

un·bar /ˌʌnˈbɑːʳ/ *v* **-rr-** [T] **1** to remove a locking bar from (a door or gate) **2** *fml* to make open: *These concessions could unbar the way to peace.*

un·bear·a·ble /ʌnˈbeərəbəl/ *adj* too bad or too unpleasant to be accepted; INTOLERABLE: *He's unbearable when he's in a bad temper.* | *unbearable heat* | *unbearable pain* —**-bly** *adv* : *It was an unbearably hot day.*

un·beat·a·ble /ʌnˈbiːtəbəl/ *adj* that cannot be defeated: *The White Sox are unbeatable this year.*

un·beat·en /ʌnˈbiːtn/ *adj* not defeated: *unbeaten in the last five games*

un·be·known /ˌʌnbɪˈnəʊn/ also **un·be·knownst** /ˌʌnbɪˈnəʊnst/— *adj, adv* [F (**to**)] without the stated person knowing: *Unbeknown to his parents, he had not been to school for a week.*

un·be·lief /ˌʌnbɨˈliːf/ *n* [U] *fml* lack of belief or refusal to believe in matters of religious faith —compare DISBELIEF

un·be·lie·va·ble /ˌʌnbɨˈliːvəbəl/ *adj* **1** too improbable to be believed: *Her excuse was frankly unbelievable.* **2** very surprising: *She's got an unbelievable number of cats!* | *He showed unbelievable stupidity.* —**-bly** *adv* : *Her singing voice is unbelievably good.*

un·be·liev·er /ˌʌnbɨˈliːvəʳ/ *n* a person who has no faith, esp. religious faith

un·bend /ʌnˈbend/ *v* **-bent** /ˈbent/ **1** [I;T] to (cause to) become straight **2** [I] to behave in a less formal and severe manner; RELAX: *She finds it hard to unbend, even at parties.* —compare UNWIND

un·bend·ing /ʌnˈbendɪŋ/ *adj* unable or unwilling to change one's opinions, decisions, etc.: *an unbending will* | *a stern unbending man*

un·bid·den /ˌʌnˈbɪdn/ *adj esp. lit* not asked for or expected; uninvited

un·bind /ˌʌnˈbaɪnd/ *v* **-bound** /ˈbaʊnd/ [T] to loosen the fastenings of; free from something that ties or wraps

un·bleached /ˌʌnˈbliːtʃt◂/ *n* not treated with a chemical BLEACH. The demand for unbleached products has grown because they are thought to be better for the environment: *an unbleached cotton T-shirt* | *unbleached tea bags*

un·blem·ished /ˌʌnˈblemɪʃt/ *adj* not spoiled, esp. by a fault or bad action: *an unblemished reputation*

un·blink·ing /ʌnˈblɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* not showing emotion or uncertainty

un·born /ˌʌnˈbɔːn◂‖-ɔːrn◂/ *adj* not yet born or existing: *the rights of the unborn child* | *generations yet unborn*

un·bos·om /ˌʌnˈbʊzəm/ *v* [T (**to**)] *fml or lit* to tell the secret feelings, esp. troubles and worries, of (oneself)

un·bound·ed /ʌnˈbaʊndɨd/ *adj esp. lit* limitless; far-reaching: *unbounded joy*

un·bowed /ˌʌnˈbaʊd◂/ *adj esp. lit* not defeated: *They left the battlefield,* **bloody but unbowed.** (=wounded but not beaten)

un·bri·dled /ʌnˈbraɪdld/ *adj esp. lit* not controlled and too active or violent: *His unbridled tongue* (=speech) *has often got him into trouble.* | *unbridled lust*

un·buck·le /ˌʌnˈbʌkəl/ *v* [T] to undo by loosening a BUCKLE: *He unbuckled his belt.*

un·bur·den /ˌʌnˈbɜːdn‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [T (**of**)] *fml* **1** to take away a load or worry from: *A servant hurried to unburden him of his bags.* **2** to free (oneself, one's mind, etc.) by talking about a secret trouble: *She unburdened herself of her terrible secret.*

un·cal·cu·lat·ed /ʌnˈkælkjʊleɪtɨd/ *adj* not planned in advance; SPONTANEOUS

un·called-for /ʌnˈkɔːld fɔːʳ/ *adj* not deserved, necessary, or right: *His rudeness was quite uncalled-for.* | *an uncalled-for intrusion*

un·can·ny /ʌnˈkæni/ *adj* very strange or mysterious; not natural or usual: *He bore an uncanny resemblance to my*

dead brother. | *She's got an uncanny knack of anticipating what you're going to tell her.* —**nily** *adv*

un·ce·re·mo·ni·ous /ˌʌnserˈməʊniəs/ *adj* **1** not done politely; rudely quick: *She finished the meal with unceremonious haste.* | *He made an unceremonious exit.* **2** informal; without ceremony —**~ly** *adv*: *He was kicked out unceremoniously into the street.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

un·cer·tain /ʌnˈsɜːtn‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [F (**of**)] not certain; doubtful: *I'm uncertain of his intentions.* [+*wh*-] *I'm uncertain how to get there.* **2** [F] undecided or unable to decide: *Our holiday plans are still uncertain.* **3** likely to change: *uncertain weather* **4 in no uncertain terms** very clearly, and perhaps rudely: *I told him in no uncertain terms what I thought of him.* —**~ly** *adv*: *He felt his way uncertainly down the dark passage.* —**~ty, ~ness** *n* [C;U]: *the uncertainties of life* | *I believe there's some uncertainty (about) whether she's coming.*

uncertainty prin·ci·ple /·ˈ··· ˌ···/ [*the*] the scientific law explaining that it is impossible to know both the speed and position of an ELEMENTARY PARTICLE. The more exactly that one is determined, the less exactly the other can be.

un·char·i·ta·ble /ʌnˈtʃærɨtəbəl/ *adj* not kind, helpful, or fair in judging others; too severe: *It was rather uncharitable of you to comment on her large nose.* | *an uncharitable refusal* —**bly** *adv*

un·chart·ed /ʌnˈtʃɑːtɨd‖-ɑːr-/ *adj esp. lit* (of a place) not known well enough for records, esp. maps, to be made: *sailing into uncharted waters* | *the uncharted forests of Brazil* —see also CHART²

un·checked /ˌʌnˈtʃekt◂/ *adj* **1** not prevented from moving, developing, etc.: *an unchecked flow of blood* | *The disease spread unchecked.* —see also CHECK² (3) **2** not tested for quality, correctness, etc.: *The goods should not have left the factory unchecked.* —see also CHECK² (1)

un·chris·tian /ʌnˈkrɪstʃən,-tiən/ *adj fml* not kind, helpful, generous, etc. Many people would avoid using this word when speaking of somebody who is not a Christian: *unchristian behaviour* | *That's a rather unchristian thing to say, isn't it?*

un·civ·il /ʌnˈsɪvəl/ *n* rude; bad-mannered: *uncivil remarks|behaviour*

un·clas·si·fied /ʌnˈklæsɨfaɪd/ *adj* **1** not arranged in any particular order: *unclassified football results* **2** (of information) not secret or sensitive: not on the SECURITY list

un·cle /ˈʌŋkəl/ *n* **1** (*often cap.*) the brother of one's father or mother, or the husband of one's aunt: *He's my uncle.* | *Take me swimming, Uncle (Jack)!* —see USAGE **2** a man whose brother or sister has a child: *My sister had a little boy yesterday, so I'm now an uncle!* **3** a man who is a friend or neighbour of a small child or its parents —see AUNT (CULTURAL NOTE) **4 say uncle** *AmE infml* to admit defeat; give up —see also DUTCH UNCLE

▷ USAGE We can use **uncle, auntie/aunty,** and (less commonly) **aunt** when addressing the people directly: *How are you,* **uncle/auntie?** We can also add the person's first name with **uncle, aunt,** and (less commonly) **auntie/aunty:** *Good morning,* **Uncle** *John/***Aunt** *Margaret.* —see also FATHER (USAGE)◁

un·clean /ˌʌnˈkliːn◂/ *adj* **1** not pure, esp. according to religious belief, often because of a condition of the body which may infect others: *In ancient times lepers were thought unclean.* **2** *bibl* (esp. in the Jewish religion) (of an animal) that must not be eaten —**~ness** *n* [U]

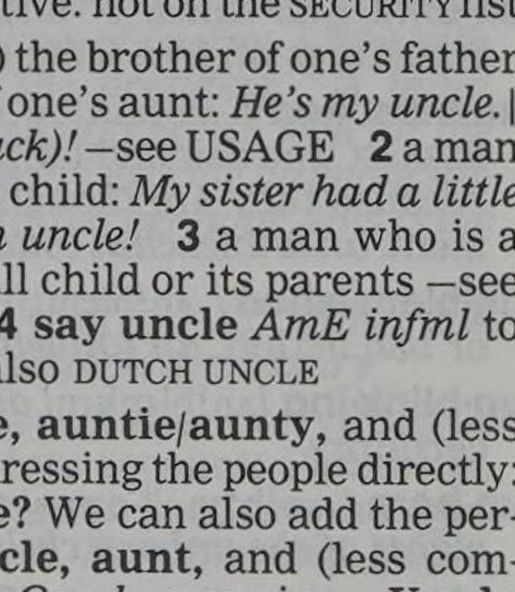
un·clear /ˌʌnˈklɪəʳ◂/ *adj* not clear or plain; difficult to see, understand, etc.: *an unclear picture|explanation* | *I'm rather unclear about what I'm doing here.*

Uncle Re·mus /ˌʌŋkəl ˈriːməs/ a name used by the American wroter Joel Chandler Harris (1848–1908), the writer of the "Brer Rabbit" stories for children

Uncle Sam /ˌʌŋkəl ˈsæm/ *infml lit* the US, esp. the US government: *Uncle Sam comes to help of needy refugees.* | *film stars from the land of Uncle Sam*

►CULTURAL NOTE Uncle Sam first appeared in the 1800s, esp. on POSTERS asking people to join the armed forces, pointing his finger and saying "Uncle Sam needs you!" His TOP HAT and clothes are always decorated with the **Stars and Stripes** of the American flag, and he is a SYMBOL of the US.◄

Uncle Sam



Uncle Tom /ˌʌŋkəl ˈtɒm‖-ˈtɑːm/ *n* **1** the main character of Harriet Beecher Stowe's NOVEL *Uncle Tom's Cabin,* a kindly black slave who is ill-treated by his owner, Simon Legree **2** *derog* a black person who is too respectful to white people

Uncle Tom Cobbleigh see Uncle Tom COBBLEIGH

un·com·for·ta·ble /ʌnˈkʌmftəbəl, -ˈkʌmfət-‖-ˈkʌmfərt-, -ˈkʌmft-/ *adj* **1** not comfortable: *an uncomfortable chair* | *I'm uncomfortable in this chair.* **2** troubled by one's situation, esp. one's position in relation to others; embarrassed (EMBARRASS); ILL AT EASE: *He felt uncomfortable when his parents started arguing in front of him.* —**bly** *adv*

un·com·mit·ted /ˌʌnkəˈmɪtɨd◂/ *adj* [(**to**)] not having firmly decided or promised to support a particular group, political belief, course of action, etc.

un·com·mon /ʌnˈkɒmən‖-ˈkɑː-/ *adj* unusual

un·com·mon·ly /ʌnˈkɒmənli‖-ˈkɑː-/ *adv fml* very; unusually: *That's uncommonly kind of you.*

un·com·mu·ni·ca·tive /ˌʌnkəˈmjuːnɨkətɪv‖-keɪt-/ *adj* not willing to talk much or give information

un·com·pro·mis·ing /ʌnˈkɒmprəmaɪzɪŋ‖-ˈkɑːm-/ *adj* refusing to change one's ideas or decisions; not prepared to COMPROMISE: *uncompromising attitudes|beliefs* —**~ly** *adv*

un·con·cerned /ˌʌnkənˈsɜːnd‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [(**about**)] not worried or anxious, esp. when one perhaps should be: *She seemed quite unconcerned about the risks she was taking.* **2** [F (**with**)] not interested or taking part: *She is unconcerned with school affairs.* —**~ly** /ˌʌnkənˈsɜːnɨdli‖-ɜːr-/ *adv*

un·con·di·tion·al /ˌʌnkənˈdɪʃənəl◂/ *adj* not limited by any conditions: *The victorious army demanded* **unconditional surrender.** —**~ly** *adv*

un·con·firmed /ˌʌnkənˈfɜːmd◂‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* without official support: *We've received unconfirmed reports of an explosion in Central London.*

un·con·scion·a·ble /ʌnˈkɒnʃənəbəl‖-ˈkɑːn-/ *adj fml* unreasonable in degree or amount: *He was absent an unconscionable time.* (=too long) —**bly** *adv*

un·con·scious¹ /ʌnˈkɒnʃəs‖-ˈkɑːn◂/ *adj* **1** having lost consciousness: *She hit her head and was unconscious for several minutes.* | *He was knocked unconscious by a falling rock.* **2** [F+**of**] not knowing about something; UNAWARE: *He was quite unconscious of having offended them.* **3** not intentional: *unconscious neglect of a serious problem* —see CONSCIOUS (USAGE) —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]: *in a state of unconsciousness*

unconscious² *n* [*the*+S] the SUBCONSCIOUS

un·con·sid·ered /ˌʌnkənˈsɪdəd◂‖-ərd◂/ *adj* **1** not carefully thought out: *an unconsidered action* **2** *fml* disregarded; unnoticed: *a few unconsidered objects left lying about*

un·con·sti·tu·tion·al /ˌʌnkɒnstɨˈtjuːʃənəl‖-kɑːnstɨˈtuː-/ *adj* not in agreement with the principles of a CONSTITUTION, esp. that of the US: *The Supreme Court ruled that the decision of the lower court was unconstitutional.* —see CONSTITUTIONALITY (CULTURAL NOTE) —**~ity** /ˌʌnkɒnstɨtjuːʃəˈnælɨti ‖ -kɑːnstɨtuː-/ *n* [U]

un·con·vinc·ing /ˌʌnkənˈvɪnsɪŋ◂/ *adj* not easy to believe or accept: *an unconvincing excuse* | *I found his argument unconvincing.* —**~ly** *adv*

un·co·or·di·na·ted /ˌʌnkəʊˈɔːdɨneɪtɨd‖-ˈɔːr-/ *adj* having no working relationship between two or more parts (e.g. of the body, a business, etc.): *I'm too uncoordinated to play the piano.* | *The time scale of this plan is totally uncoordinated.*

un·cork /ʌnˈkɔːk‖-ɔːrk/ *v* [T] to open (esp. a bottle or barrel) by removing the CORK¹ (2)

un·count·a·ble /ʌnˈkaʊntəbəl/ *adj* that cannot be counted. Uncountable nouns are marked [U] in this dictionary: *"Is 'furniture' countable or uncountable?" "It's uncountable; you can't say 'two furnitures'!"* —compare COUNT NOUN

un·coup·le /ʌnˈkʌpəl/ *v* [T] to separate (esp. joined railway carriages); free from a fastening

un·couth /ʌnˈkuːθ/ *adj* not having good manners; awkward

or impolite in speech and behaviour: *an uncouth young man* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·cov·er /ʌnˈkʌvəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** to remove a covering from: *In spring we uncover the swimming pool.* **2** to find out (something unknown or kept secret); discover: *The police have uncovered a plot to rob this bank.*

un·crit·i·cal /ʌnˈkrɪtɪkəl/ *adj* [(**of**)] not making or showing any judgments; (unwisely) accepting, without deciding if good or bad: *She is quite uncritical of his behaviour.* | *He has rather an uncritical eye for paintings.* —**-cally** /kli/ *adv*

un·crowned king /ˌʌnkraʊnd ˈkɪŋ/ **uncrowned queen** *fem.*— *n* [*the*+S (**of**)] the person generally considered to be the best, most famous, etc., in a particular activity: *Martina Navratilova, the uncrowned queen of women's tennis in the 1980s*

un·crush·a·ble /ʌnˈkrʌʃəbəl/ *adj* **1** (of materials and cloth) staying smooth and not forming unwanted folds **2** *esp. lit* (of a person, a person's will, etc.) that will not admit defeat: *her uncrushable spirit*

unc·tu·ous /ˈʌŋktʃuəs/ *adj fml* full of unpleasantly insincere kindness, interest, etc.: *unctuous praise* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·cut /ˌʌnˈkʌt◂/ *adj* **1** (of a film or story) not made shorter, e.g. by having violent or sexually improper scenes removed: *the uncut version of "Lady Chatterley's Lover"* **2** (of a diamond or other precious stone) not shaped and formed for wearing, use in jewellery, etc.

un·daunt·ed /ʌnˈdɔːntɨd/ *adj* [(**by**)] not at all discouraged or frightened by danger or difficulty —see also DAUNT

un·de·ceive /ˌʌndɪˈsiːv/ *v* [T] *fml* to inform (someone) of the truth, esp. when they are mistaken: *She thought he was a famous film director, but I had to undeceive her.*

un·de·cid·ed /ˌʌndɪˈsaɪdɨd/ *adj* **1** [F (**about, as to**)] having not made a firm decision; in doubt: *About a third of the voters are still undecided as to how they will vote.* [+*wh*-] *I'm undecided whether to go to France or Italy for my holidays.* **2** without a result; not settled: *The match was left undecided.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·de·mon·stra·tive /ˌʌndɪˈmɒnstrətɪv◂‖-ˈmɑː-/ *adj* not showing one's feelings: *an undemonstrative father|audience* —~**ly** *adv*

un·de·ni·a·ble /ˌʌndɪˈnaɪəbəl◂/ *adj* clear and certain: *His ability is undeniable.* | *It's undeniable that she is the best person for the job.* —**-bly** *adv*

un·der[1] /ˈʌndəʳ/ *prep* **1** in or to a lower place than; directly below; covered by: *The box is under the table.* | *Can you breathe under water?* | *We sheltered under the tree.* (=covered by its branches) | *The insect crept under the door.* | *a village under* (=at the base of) *the hill* | *What are you wearing under your coat?* **2** less than: *It costs under £5.* | *a temperature (of) under 30°* | *Children under* (=younger than) *14 cannot see this film.* —opposite **over**; compare BELOW[2] **3** working for; controlled by: *She has three secretaries under her.* —opposite **over** **4** during the rule of: *Spain under Franco* **5** in the class of: *Iron is listed under "Metals" in the index.* | *I think this problem comes under the heading of industrial diseases.* **6** according to: *Under the terms of the agreement, you have to pay a weekly rent.* | *He was detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.* **7** experiencing the effects of: *The hospital is under threat of closure.* (=is threatened with being closed) | *They took this decision under pressure from the unions.* | *We had to work under great difficulties.* | *I was under the impression* (=I believed, perhaps wrongly) *that the exams started on Monday.* **8** in or into a state of: *At last we brought the fire under control.* | *The patient is under an anaesthetic.* **9** in the process of: *The matter is still under review|under discussion.* **10 under way a** moving: *You can't use the toilets till the train is under way.* **b** happening now; in PROGRESS: *Plans are under way for a big celebration.*

▷ USAGE Compare **under, beneath, underneath,** and **below.** 1 Under is the most common word when one thing is directly under another thing, or covered by it: **under** *the bed* | **under** *the blanket.* **Beneath** can also be used in this way, but may suggest that the two objects are not close to each other. *The submarine waited, far* **beneath** *the ship.* **Beneath** is also used in poetic or literary writing: *They strolled together* **beneath** *the summer moon.* 2 **Under** (opposite **over**) is used when there is movement from one side to another: *The boy crawled* **under** *the fence.* **Underneath** is used instead of **under, a** to give more force to the idea of covering, touching, or hiding: *The letter had been pushed* **underneath** *the carpet by accident.* | *The old mine goes right* **underneath** *the city,* **b** at the end of a sentence: *She wore a red coat with a blue dress* **underneath.** 3 **Below** (opposite **above**) suggests only that one thing is in a lower position than an other: *There is a lake* **below** *the village, further down the valley.* —see also ABOVE (USAGE)◁

under[2] *adv* **1** in or to a lower place; directly below —see also **down under** (DOWN[1] (19)) **2** less or younger than stated: *Children of nine or under must be accompanied by an adult.*

under- see WORD FORMATION

un·der·a·chieve /ˌʌndərəˈtʃiːv/ *v* [I] *euph* to perform less well than one could, esp. at one's school work —**-chiever** *n*

un·der·act /ˌʌndərˈækt/ *v* [I;T] *sometimes apprec* to act (a part in a play) with very little force —opposite **overact**

un·der·age /ˌʌndərˈeɪdʒ◂/ *adj* too young for some purpose, esp. to vote, buy alcohol, or hold a driving LICENCE — opposite **overage**

un·der·arm[1] /ˈʌndərɑːm‖-ɑːrm/ also **underhand**— *adj, adv* (in sport) with the arm not moving above the shoulder: *He bowled underarm.* | *an underarm throw* —opposite **overarm**

underarm[2] *adj* [A] *euph* of or for the ARMPIT: *underarm deodorants*

un·der·bel·ly /ˈʌndəˌbeli‖-ər-/ *n* [(*the*) S (**of**)] *esp. lit or pomp* the weak or undefended part of a place, a plan, etc.

un·der·brush /ˈʌndəbrʌʃ‖-ər-/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* thick UNDERGROWTH in a forest

un·der·cap·i·tal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˌʌndəˈkæpɨtl-aɪz‖-dər-/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to supply (a business) with too little money for it to operate profitably

un·der·car·riage /ˈʌndəˌkærɪdʒ‖-ər-/ *n* an aircraft's wheels and wheel supports —see picture at AIRCRAFT

und·er·charge /ˌʌndəˈtʃɑːdʒ‖ˌʌndərˈtʃɑːrdʒ/ *v* [I (**for**);T (**by**)] to charge (someone) too little or less than the correct price: *They undercharged me by 60 pence.* —opposite **overcharge**

un·der·class /ˈʌndəklɑːs‖-dərklæs/ *n* a social class of people seen as being outside the society in which they live, esp. because they have little chance of training or employment, little money, or no regular way of living

un·der·clas·sman /ˈʌndəklɑːsmən‖-dərklæs-/ **-wom·an** /ˌwʊmən/ *fem*— *n* **-men** /men/ *AmE* a student in the first two years of a school or college, i.e. a FRESHMAN or SOPHOMORE: *Underclassmen are not allowed locker privileges at the gym.* —compare UPPERCLASSMAN

un·der·clothes /ˈʌndəkləʊðz, -kləʊz‖-dər-/ also **un·der·cloth·ing** /ˈʌndəˌkləʊðɪŋ‖-dər-/— *n* [P] *rather fml for* UNDERWEAR

un·der·coat /ˈʌndəkəʊt‖-dər-/ *n* [C;U] a covering of paint put onto a surface as a base for a top covering of paint — compare TOPCOAT

un·der·cov·er /ˌʌndəˈkʌvəʳ◂‖-dər-/ *adj* acting or done secretly, not publicly, esp. as a SPY or for gain: *an undercover agent* | *undercover payments*

un·der·cur·rent /ˈʌndəˌkʌrənt‖-dərˌkɜːr-/ *n* **1** a hidden current of water beneath the surface **2** [(**of**)] a hidden tendency in feelings, opinions, etc., esp. when this is different from what appears to be happening: *an undercurrent of discontent*

un·der·cut /ˌʌndəˈkʌt‖-ər-/ *v* **-cut**; *present participle* **-cutting** [T] to sell goods or services more cheaply than (a competitor)

un·der·de·vel·oped coun·try /ˌʌndədɪveləpt ˈkʌntri‖-dər-/ *n* a country that needs to develop its industries and improve living conditions; a DEVELOPING COUNTRY

un·der·dog /ˈʌndədɒg‖ˈʌndərdɔːg/ *n* **1** a weaker person, country, etc., that is always treated badly by others **2** a person, team, etc., that is expected to lose in a competition with another. British people are often thought to support the underdog in a competition and to want them to win: *In their football match with Brazil, Switzerland are the underdogs.*

un·der·done /ˌʌndəˈdʌn◂‖-ər-/ *adj* not completely cooked, esp. (of meat) still red —opposite **overdone**

un·der·dressed /ˌʌndəˈdrest◂‖-dər-/ *adj* wearing clothes which are less formal than what is considered correct for a particular occasion: *I felt underdressed at Bill's leaving party, standing there in my jeans and rugby shirt in a roomful of men wearing suits and ties.*

un·der·es·ti·mate[1] /ˌʌndərˈestɨmeɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to guess too low a value for (an amount): *We underestimated the cost of materials, and ended up taking a loss.* **2** [T] to have too low an opinion of: *Don't underestimate him/his abilities.* —opposite **overestimate**

un·der·es·ti·mate[2] /ˌʌndərˈestɨmɨt/ *n* an ESTIMATE which is too small

un·der·ex·pose /ˌʌndərɪkˈspəʊz/ *v* [T] to give too little light to (a film or photograph) —opposite **overexpose**

un·der·felt /ˈʌndəfelt‖-ər-/ *BrE*‖**rug pad** *AmE*— *n* [U] soft rough material placed between a CARPET and the floor

un·der·floor /ˌʌndəˈflɔːr◂‖-ər-/ *adj* (esp. of heating systems) laid beneath the surface of the floor: *underfloor heating*

un·der·foot /ˌʌndəˈfʊt‖-ər-/ *adv* **1** below one's feet; for walking on: *The ground was stony underfoot.* **2** under the foot, esp. against the ground: *Some of the children got trampled underfoot as the crowd fled in panic.* **3** in the way, so as to be annoying: *The children are always getting underfoot.*

un·der·fund /ˌʌndəˈfʌnd‖-ər-/ *v* [T] to supply less than enough money for: *The childcare programme has been continuously underfunded.* —**~ing** *n* [U]

un·der·gar·ment /ˈʌndəˌgɑːmənt‖ˈʌndərˌgɑːr-/ *n fml or old-fash* a piece of UNDERWEAR

un·der·go /ˌʌndəˈgəʊ‖-dər-/ *v* **-went** /ˈwent/, **-gone** /ˈgɒn‖ˈgɔːn/ [T] to experience (esp. something unpleasant, unwelcome, or difficult): *She's undergoing treatment at the hospital.* | *The company has undergone some major changes in the last five years.*

un·der·grad·u·ate /ˌʌndəˈgrædʒuɨt‖-ər-/ also **un·der·grad** /ˈʌndəgræd‖-ər-/*infml*— *n* a student who is doing a university course for a BACHELOR'S DEGREE —compare GRADUATE[1] (1)

un·der·ground[1] /ˌʌndəˈgraʊnd‖-ər-/ *adv* **1** under the earth's surface: *The nuclear waste was buried deep underground.* **2** in secret; in or into a secret place, hidden from public view: *The news has been passed on underground, but hasn't appeared in the newspapers.* | *The terrorists have had to* **go underground** (=leave ordinary life for a time)

un·der·ground[2] /ˈʌndəgraʊnd‖-ər-/ *adj* **1** below the surface of the earth: *an underground passage* **2 a** representing a view which is not generally accepted, esp. in art, literature, etc.: *underground newspapers* **b** operating secretly and often illegally, esp. in opposition to an established political system: *an underground group of anti-government guerillas*

underground[3] *n* **1** [(*the*) S] also **tube** *BrE* ‖ **subway** *AmE*— (*often cap.*) a railway system in which the trains run in tubes underground, esp. (in Britain) the one in London: *We went on the Underground/by underground.* —compare METRO **2** [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] **a** (esp. in the 1960s and 1970s) a loose group of people in society opposed to accepted ideas in art, politics, etc. **b** a group working in secret to fight or oppose the rulers of a country

the symbol for the London Underground



Underground Rail·road /ˌ··· ˈ··/ [*the*] a loosely arranged system in America before the Civil War to help escaping slaves

un·der·growth /ˈʌndəgrəʊθ‖-dər-/ *n* [U] bushes, small trees, and other plants growing around and under trees: *I could hear an animal scuttling about in the undergrowth.*

un·der·hand[1] /ˌʌndəˈhænd◂‖-ər-/ *adj, adv* UNDERARM[1]

underhand[2] also **un·der·hand·ed** /ˌʌndəˈhændɨd◂‖-ər-/— *adj* dishonest, esp. secretly: *He acquired the money in a most underhand manner/by underhand methods.* —**~handedly** *adv* —**~handedness** *n* [U]

un·der·lay /ˈʌndəleɪ‖-ər-/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) material laid under a CARPET, esp. to preserve the quality of the carpet and to keep heat in: *foam underlay*

un·der·lie /ˌʌndəˈlaɪ‖-ər-/ *v* **-lay** /ˈleɪ/, **-lain** /ˈleɪn/ [T] to be a hidden cause or meaning of: *I think a lack of confidence underlies his aggressive manner.* | *The underlying message of the report was quite optimistic.*

un·der·line /ˌʌndəˈlaɪn‖-ər-/ also **underscore**— *v* [T] **1** to draw a line under (a word), esp. to show its importance or draw attention to it **2** to give force to (an idea, feeling, etc., which has been expressed or shown); EMPHASIZE: *She underlined her disapproval of the proceedings by walking out.*

un·der·ling /ˈʌndəlɪŋ‖-ər-/ *n derog* a person of low rank or position in relation to another; SUBORDINATE: *The chairman did not attend the meeting; he sent one of his underlings.*

un·der·manned /ˌʌndəˈmænd◂‖-ər-/ *adj* (e.g. of a factory or ship) not having enough workers; UNDERSTAFFED — opposite **overmanned**

un·der·men·tioned /ˌʌndəˈmenʃənd◂‖-dər-/ *adj* [A] *BrE fml* which is/are mentioned later in the same piece of writing: *Please supply me with the undermentioned goods …* [also *n, the*+P] *The undermentioned will report for duty …* —compare ABOVE-MENTIONED

Under Milk Wood /ˌ·· ˌ· ˈ·/ a play by Dylan Thomas, originally performed on the radio, which is set in an imaginary Welsh village and full of humour and sensitive descriptions of people

un·der·mine /ˌʌndəˈmaɪn‖-ər-/ *v* [T] **1** to wear away the earth beneath, removing support: *The house is unsafe since the foundations were undermined by floods.* **2** to weaken or destroy gradually: *Criticism undermines his confidence.* | *These incidents could seriously undermine support for the police.*

un·der·neath[1] /ˌʌndəˈniːθ‖-ər-/ *prep, adv* under; below: *The letter was pushed underneath the door.* | *Underneath his rather severe manner, he is really very kind-hearted.* | *She wore a fur coat with nothing underneath.* —see UNDER (USAGE)

underneath[2] *n* [(*the*) S] *BrE infml* the lower part of something; bottom surface; UNDERSIDE: *There's a crack on the underneath of the bowl.*

un·der·nour·ished /ˌʌndəˈnʌrɪʃt‖ˌʌndərˈnɜː-, -ˈnʌ-/ *adj* having eaten too little food, or food of too low quality, and suffering lack of growth and development: *This child is seriously undernourished.* —**~ishment** *n* [U]

un·der·pants /ˈʌndəpænts‖-ər-/ *n* [P] underclothes covering the lower part of the body and sometimes the top part of the legs —compare KNICKERS; see PAIR (USAGE)

un·der·pass /ˈʌndəpɑːs‖ˈʌndərpæs/ *n* a passage, path, or road built beneath a road or railway line

un·der·pay /ˌʌndəˈpeɪ‖-ər-/ *v* **-paid** /ˈpeɪd/ [T] to pay (someone) too little for their work: *We're overworked and underpaid!* —opposite **overpay**

un·der·pin /ˌʌndəˈpɪn‖-ər-/ *v* **-nn-** [T] **1** to support (esp. a wall) from below, e.g. by means of a solid piece of material **2** to give strength or support to (esp. an argument): *A solid basis of evidence underpins her theory.*

un·der·play /ˌʌndəˈpleɪ‖-ər-/ *v* [T] **1** to make (something) appear less important than it really is; PLAY **down** **2** to UNDERACT **3 underplay one's hand** to take careful action, showing less of one's plans, intentions, or strength than one could

un·der·priv·i·leged /ˌʌndəˈprɪvɨlɪdʒd◂‖-dər-/ *adj euph* (of a person) not having the advantages of an average person's life; poor, living in bad housing, having low-quality education, etc.: *underprivileged children* [also *n, the*+P] *special help for the underprivileged*

un·der·rate /ˌʌndəˈreɪt/ *v* [T] to have too low an opinion of the quality of; UNDERESTIMATE: *It would be dangerous to underrate his ability.* | *a much underrated film* —opposite **overrate**

un·der·re·source /ˌʌndərɪˈzɔːs, -ˈsɔːs‖-ɔːrs/ *v* [T] to provide too little money, equipment, etc. for: *The project will never be a success if it continues to be underresourced.*

un·der·score /ˌʌndəˈskɔːr‖-ər-/ *v* [T] to UNDERLINE

un·der·seal /ˈʌndəsiːl‖-dər-/ *v* [T] to put a coat of a thick paint, usu. containing rubber, on the UNDERSIDE of (a

motor vehicle) to help prevent RUST from forming

un·der·sec·re·ta·ry /ˌʌndəˈsekrɨtəriǁˌʌndərˈsekrɨteri/ *n* (*often cap.*) **1** (in Britain) a person who is in charge of the daily work of a government department, either a member of parliament of the governing party (**parliamentary undersecretary**) or a CIVIL SERVANT (**permanent undersecretary**), and who helps and advises a minister **2** *AmE* (in other countries) a very high official in a government department

un·der·sell /ˌʌndəˈselǁ-ər-/ *v* **-sold** /ˈsəʊld/ [T] **1** to sell goods at a lower price than (a business competitor) **2** to put too low a value on the good qualities of (a person or thing), esp. when persuading or selling: *I think he undersold himself at the job interview.*

un·der·sexed /ˌʌndəˈsekstǁ-ər-/ *adj* having unusually little sexual desire —opposite **oversexed**

un·der·shirt /ˈʌndəʃɜːtǁˈʌndərʃɜːrt/ *n AmE for* VEST (1)

un·der·side /ˈʌndəsaɪdǁ-ər-/ *n* [(*the*) S] the part below; lower side or surface: *The underside of the rock was covered with seaweed.*

un·der·signed /ˈʌndəsaɪndǁ-ər-/ *adj* [A] *fml* whose signature appears beneath this writing: [also *n*, *the*+P] *We, the undersigned, wish to be considered for election: John Smith, Joe Brown, Mary White.*

un·der·sized /ˌʌndəˈsaɪzdǁ-ər-/ also **un·der·size** /-ˈsaɪz/— *adj* smaller than usual; too small

un·der·staffed /ˌʌndəˈstɑːftǁˌʌndərˈstæft/ *adj* having too few workers, or fewer than usual; UNDERMANNED: *The office is understaffed since the last secretary left.* —opposite **overstaffed**

un·der·stand /ˌʌndəˈstændǁ-ər-/ *v* **-stood** /ˈstʊd/ [*not in progressive forms*] **1** [I;T] to know or recognize the meaning of (something) or the words spoken by (someone): *Do you understand this notice?* | *I can't understand modern art.* | *She spoke so fast I couldn't understand her.* | *Don't you ever do that again, do you understand?* (=a threat) | *I found I could easily* **make myself understood** (=make my meaning clear) *by using sign language.* **2** [T] to know well the character of and have a sympathetic feeling towards (a person, their behaviour, etc.): *If he really loves her he'll understand.* | *A good teacher needs to understand children.* | *I can't understand him when he behaves so badly.* [+*wh*-] *I can understand why you're annoyed|how you feel.* | *Now we* **understand one another|each other** (=each knows what the other wants and an agreement has been reached), *we can proceed.* **3** [I (**about**);T] to know about and be able to explain the nature of (something), esp. through learning or experience: *I've never really understood the political situation in the Lebanon.* [+*wh*-] *You don't need to understand how computers work in order to use them.* | *He doesn't really understand about money.* (=doesn't know how to deal with it wisely) **4** [T] *often fml or polite* to have been informed; have found out (a fact): [+(*that*)] *I understand you're coming to work for us.* | *"She's coming to work for us." "So I understand."* | *I understood he was married, but apparently he isn't.* | **Am I to understand** (=are you telling me) *that you do not intend to pay this bill?* | *He* **gave me to understand** (=told me) *that he would not be returning.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The ex-president is understood to have secretly left the country.* (=it is thought he has left) **5** [T] to take or judge (as the meaning); INTERPRET: *As I understand it* (=according to my judgment of the situation), *our real problem is lack of time not lack of money.* | *He made a few encouraging comments, and I understood this as meaning he approved.* [+(*that*)] *By "children" it's understood (that) they mean people under 14.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *We understood them to mean that they would wait for us.* **6** [T *often pass.*] to add in the mind (something not stated or expressed, esp. a word) to make a meaning complete: *When I say "Come and help", the object "me" is understood.*

un·der·stand·a·ble /ˌʌndəˈstændəbəlǁˌʌndər-/ *adj* **1** that can be understood; COMPREHENSIBLE: *The loudspeaker announcement was barely understandable.* **2** as might have been expected; reasonable: *It was quite understandable that he was annoyed.* —**bly** *adv* : *He was understandably annoyed.*

un·der·stand·ing[1] /ˌʌndəˈstændɪŋǁ-ər-/ *n* **1** [U] ability to know and learn; INTELLIGENCE: *beyond a child's understanding* **2** [S;U (**of**)] knowledge of the nature of something, based esp. on learning or experience: *I have little understanding|only a limited understanding of economics|computers|American politics.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a private, not formal, agreement: *We have* **come to an understanding.** (=reached an agreement) [+*that*] *I lent him money* **on the understanding** *that* (=on condition that) *he paid it back the next month.* **4** [U (**of**)] the way in which one judges the meaning of something; INTERPRETATION: *According to my understanding of the letter, it means something quite different.* **5** [S;U] a sympathetic relationship based on knowing the true character of someone: *There is (a) deep understanding between them.* | *It is hoped that these talks will improve international understanding.*

understanding[2] *adj apprec* sympathetic and therefore not often blaming or getting annoyed: *Luckily, I have a very understanding boss.*

un·der·state /ˌʌndəˈsteɪtǁ-ər-/ *v* [T] **1** to cause (something) to seem less important than it really is: *They understated the seriousness of the crime.* —opposite **overstate** **2** to express without full force or show, holding back feelings: *In an understated speech he made clear his views.* | *an understated evening dress* (=not showy)

un·der·state·ment /ˌʌndəˈsteɪtməntǁ-dər-/ *n* [C;U] (a) statement which is not strong enough to express the full or true facts or feelings: *To say the film was bad is an understatement.* | *You call him rich? That's* **the understatement of the year;** *he owns more than any man in Britain!*

un·der·stud·y[1] /ˈʌndəˌstʌdiǁ-ər-/ *n* an actor who learns a part in a play so as to be able if necessary to take the place of the actor who usually plays that part

understudy[2] *v* [T] to be an understudy for (an actor or actress) in (a part): *She understudied (Maggie Smith as) Desdemona.*

un·der·take /ˌʌndəˈteɪkǁ-ər-/ *v* **-took** /ˈtʊk/, **-taken** /ˈteɪkən/ [T] *fml* **1** to take up or accept (a duty or piece of work, esp. one that is difficult or needs effort): *She undertook responsibility for the changes.* | *The Channel Tunnel is one of the biggest engineering projects ever undertaken.* **2** [*obj*] to promise or agree: [+*to-v*] *He undertook to pay the money back within six months.* [+*that*] *He undertook that he would pay it back.*

un·der·tak·er /ˈʌndəteɪkəʳǁ-dər-/ *n* a person whose job is to arrange funerals

un·der·tak·ing[1] /ˌʌndəˈteɪkɪŋǁˈʌndərteɪ-/ *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] something undertaken; a job, piece of work, or anything needing effort: *Starting a new business can be quite a risky undertaking.* **2** *fml* a promise; PLEDGE: [+*to-v*|*that*] *We have had a personal undertaking from the Prime Minister to deal with the matter|that he will deal with the matter.*

un·der·tak·ing[2] /ˈʌndəˌteɪkɪŋǁ-ər-/ *n* [U] the business of an undertaker

under-the-coun·ter /ˌ·· · ˈ··◂/ *adj infml* (bought or sold) secretly, often illegally: *under-the-counter sales|payments* —see also COUNTER[1] (3)

un·der·tone /ˈʌndətəʊnǁ-dər-/ *n* **1** a quiet voice: *He spoke in an undertone.* **2** [(**of**)] a feeling or quality that is not openly expressed but can still be recognized: *There was an undertone of sadness in her letter.* —compare OVERTONES

un·der·tow /ˈʌndətəʊǁ-dər-/ *n* [S] the current beneath the surface which pulls back towards the sea as a wave breaks on the shore

un·der·used /ˌʌndəˈjuːzdǁ-dər-/ *adj* (esp. of public buildings etc.) not used as much as it/they could be: *The municipal sports centre is underused and losing money.*

un·der·val·ue /ˌʌndəˈvæljuːǁ-ər-/ *v* [T] to have too low an opinion of the value or importance of: *She felt that the company undervalued her|her work.*

un·der·wa·ter /ˌʌndəˈwɔːtəʳ◂ǁˌʌndərˈwɔːtər, -ˈwɑː-/ *adj, adv* (used, done, etc.) below the surface of a stretch of water: *underwater swimming* | *underwater cameras* | *The ship was underwater when they reached her.* | *They swam underwater.*

un·der·wear /ˈʌndəweəʳǁ-dər-/ also **underclothes, underclothing** *rather fml*— *n* [U] the clothes worn next to the body under other clothes, such as UNDERPANTS, BRAS, etc.

un·der·weight /ˌʌndəˈweɪtǁ-ər-/ *adj* weighing less than is expected or usual: *The potatoes are underweight by a kilo.* [after *n*] *He's several pounds underweight.* —opposite **overweight;** see THIN (USAGE)

un·der·went /ˌʌndəˈwent‖-ər-/ *past tense of* UNDERGO

un·der·whelm /ˌʌndəˈwelm‖-ər-/ *v* [T] *often humor* to impress very little, or less than was intended or expected: *He underwhelmed us with his recitation of nursery rhymes in Latin.* | *an underwhelming new film*

un·der·world /ˈʌndəwɜːld‖ˈʌndərwɜːrld/ *n* [*the*+S] **1** (*usu. cap.*) (esp. in ancient Greek stories) the place where the spirits of the dead live **2** the criminal world; criminals considered as a social group

un·der·write /ˌʌndəˈraɪt/ *v* **-wrote** /ˈrəʊt/, **-written** /ˈrɪtn/ [T] **1** *fml* to support with money and esp. take responsibility for possible failure: *The government has agreed to underwrite the new project with a grant of £5 million.* **2** *tech* to take responsibility for fulfilling (an insurance agreement)

un·der·writ·er /ˈʌndəˌraɪtəʳ‖-dər-/ *n* a person who makes insurance contracts

Underwriters' La·bor·a·tories /ˈ···· ·ˌ···‖ˈ···· ˌ····/ also **UL**– an American organization which tests the safety of electrical equipment and puts its mark on that which it approves: *This television is approved by Underwriters' Laboratories.* | *a* **UL-listed** *lamp*

un·de·served /ˌʌndɪˈzɜːvd◂‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* which has not been earned: *undeserved attention|criticism*

un·de·si·ra·ble[1] /ˌʌndɪˈzaɪərəbəl◂/ *adj fml* unpleasant and unwanted: *Long delays are undesirable, but sometimes unavoidable.* | *efforts to rid the football clubs of undesirable elements* | *The incident could have undesirable consequences for the government.* –compare DESIRABLE (1) **–-bly** *adv* **–-bility** /ˌʌndɪzaɪərəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

undesirable[2] *n fml derog* an undesirable person, esp. someone regarded as immoral, criminal, or socially unacceptable

un·de·vel·oped /ˌʌndɪˈveləpt◂/ *adj* (usu. of a place) in its natural state, esp. not having industry, mines, building, modern farming, etc. –see also DEVELOP (3), UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY

un·dies /ˈʌndiːz/ *n* [P] *infml or humor* articles of esp. women's UNDERWEAR

un·dig·ni·fied /ʌnˈdɪgnɨfaɪd/ *adj* lacking in seriousness or formality; appearing foolish: *an undignified exit* | *undignified behaviour*

un·dis·charged /ˌʌndɪsˈtʃɑːdʒd◂‖-ɑːr-/ *adj tech* **1** (of an account or debt) not paid –see also DISCHARGE[1] (4) **2** (of a person who owes money) not yet allowed by the court to stop repayments; still legally in debt: *an undischarged bankrupt*

un·di·vid·ed /ˌʌndɪˈvaɪdɨd◂/ *adj* complete: *Give me your* **undivided attention.**

un·do /ʌnˈduː/ *v* **-did** /ˈdɪd/, **-done** /ˈdʌn/ [T] **1** to unfasten (something tied or wrapped): *Undo the string round the parcel.* | *I undid the parcel.* –see also UNDONE, DO **up** (1); see OPEN[2] (USAGE) **2** to remove the effects of: *The disastrous fire undid months of hard work.* **3** [*usu. pass.*] *old use* to ruin the position or hopes of: *I am undone! My secret has been discovered!* **4** [usu. pass.] to upset very seriously: *She was undone by the news of the accident.*

un·do·ing /ʌnˈduːɪŋ/ *n* [S] the cause of someone's ruin, shame, failure, etc.; DOWNFALL: *In the end his ambition was his undoing.* (=caused him to fail) –compare MAKING (2)

un·done /ˌʌnˈdʌn◂/ *adj* [F] unfastened or loose: *One of your buttons is undone|has come undone.*

un·doubt·ed /ʌnˈdaʊtɨd/ *adj* known for certain to be (so); UNQUESTIONABLE: *his undoubted talent* –see DOUBT[2] (USAGE) **–~ly** *adv* : *That is undoubtedly true.*

un·dreamed-of /ʌnˈdriːmd ɒv ‖ -ɑːv/ also **un·dreamt-of** /ʌnˈdremt-/– *adj* beyond, and esp. better or more than, what can be imagined: *undreamed-of happiness| wealth* | *These technical advances were undreamed-of even 20 years ago.*

un·dress[1] /ʌnˈdres/ *v* **1** [I] to take one's clothes off **2** [T] to take the clothes off (someone): *I undressed the baby and put him in his bath.*

undress[2] *n* [U] **1** *fml* lack of clothes: *The little boy ran out of the house, still in a* **state of undress.** **2** *tech* military uniform not for ceremonial occasions

un·dressed /ˌʌnˈdrest◂/ *adj* **1** [F] not wearing any clothes: *The doctor told me to* **get undressed.** (=take my clothes off) **2** (of a wound) not treated with drugs and covered –see also DRESS[1] (5) **3** (of an animal skin) not yet fully treated or preserved as leather

un·due /ˌʌnˈdjuː◂‖-duː◂/ *adj* [A] *fml* more than is reasonable, suitable, or necessary; EXCESSIVE: *It would be wise not to give undue importance to his criticisms.* | *with undue haste* –see also UNDULY

un·du·late /ˈʌndjʊleɪt‖-dʒə-/ *v* [I] *rather fml* to move or lie like waves rising and falling: *undulating hills* **–-lation** /ˌʌndjʊˈleɪʃən‖-dʒə-/ *n* [C;U]: *the gentle undulations of the English landscape*

un·du·ly /ʌnˈdjuːli‖-ˈduː-/ *adv fml* in an undue way; too much (so): *We're not unduly worried|not worried unduly.*

un·dy·ing /ʌnˈdaɪ-ɪŋ/ *adj* [A] which will never end; ETERNAL: *our undying love* | *undying fame*

un·earned /ʌnˈɜːnd◂‖-ˈɜːrnd◂/ *adj* **1** not obtained by working: *unearned income|wealth* **2** not deserved: *unearned praise*

un·earth /ʌnˈɜːθ‖-ˈɜːrθ/ *v* [T] **1** to dig up: *The police unearthed a skeleton in his garden.* **2** to discover by careful searching: *The reporter had unearthed some interesting secrets about her.*

un·earth·ly /ʌnˈɜːθli‖-ˈɜːr-/ *adj* **1** very strange and unnatural; GHOSTLY: *I felt an unearthly presence in the room.* **2** [A] *infml* (of time) very inconvenient, esp. because too early or late: *What an unearthly time of night to call!* **–-liness** *n* [U]

un·ease /ʌnˈiːz/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* anxiety; worry

un·eas·y /ʌnˈiːzi/ *adj* **1** feeling anxious, uncertain, and uncomfortable in the mind: *I'm uneasy about this decision.* **2** causing uneasy feelings; not settled; likely to end without warning: *The nuclear deterrent has maintained an uneasy peace since World War II.* **3** not comfortable or at rest: *uneasy sleep* **–-ily** *adv* **–-iness** *n* [U]

▷USAGE **Uneasy** does not mean "difficult".◁

un·e·co·nom·ic /ˌʌniːkəˈnɒmɪk◂, ˌʌnekə-‖-ˈnɑː-/ *adj* **1** resulting in loss of money or not producing (enough) profit: *The factory is uneconomic and will have to be closed down.* –opposite **economic** **2** also **un·e·co·nom·i·cal** /-kəl/– wasteful: *an uneconomic use of time* –compare ECONOMICAL **– ~ally** /kli/ *adv*

un·ed·i·fy·ing /ʌnˈedɨfaɪ-ɪŋ/ *adj* unpleasant or offensive to the moral sense: *The film treated us to the unedifying spectacle of a woman having her eyes cut out.*

un·ed·u·cat·ed /ʌnˈedjʊkeɪtɨd‖-dʒə-/ *adj* showing a lack of (good) education: *uneducated speech*

un·em·ployed /ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪd◂/ *adj* **1** not having a job: *He's unemployed at present.* [also *n*, (*the*) P] *The number of unemployed is rising all the time.* **2** *fml* not being used profitably: *unemployed wealth*

un·em·ploy·ment /ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪmənt/ *n* [U] **1** the number of people without work in a group or society, in relation to the number of people wanting work: *In this period, unemployment reached record levels.* **2** the state of being unemployed: *These closures will mean unemployment for about 500 workers.* **3** *AmE infml* for UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT: *He's been collecting unemployment for six weeks.* | *Do I qualify for unemployment?* –compare FULL EMPLOYMENT

unemployment ben·e·fit /··ˈ·· ˌ···/ ‖ also **unemployment com·pen·sa·tion** /··ˈ·· ··ˌ··/ *AmE– n* [U] a sum of money paid regularly by the state to an unemployed worker, esp. the money paid in Britain to unemployed workers who have made a certain number of NATIONAL INSURANCE payments: *He's been living off unemployment benefit for three months, and still has no job.*

un·end·ing /ʌnˈendɪŋ/ *adj* (esp. of something unpleasant) continuing (or seeming to be) without end: *an unending struggle to survive*

un·en·light·ened /ˌʌnɪnˈlaɪtənd◂/ *adj* **1** without knowledge or understanding: *After his complicated explanation I'm afraid I was still completely unenlightened.* **2** having wrong beliefs because of lack of knowledge; SUPERSTITIOUS –see also ENLIGHTENED

un·en·vi·a·ble /ʌnˈenviəbəl/ *adj* difficult and unpleasant; not to be wished for: *The policeman had the unenviable job of telling her that her husband had been killed.*

un·e·qual /ʌnˈiːkwəl/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] not of equal size, value, etc.: *unequal amounts* **2** not balanced or fair; ONE-SIDED: *an unequal contest* **3** [F+**to**] *fml* (of a person) not having

enough strength, ability, etc.; INADEQUATE: *He proved to be unequal to the job.* (=could not do it) —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·e·qualled *BrE* ‖ **unequaled** *AmE* /ʌnˈiːkwəld/ *adj fml* greater or esp. better than any other: *unequalled courage* | *The school's success rate is unequalled.* —see also EQUAL[3] (2)

un·e·quiv·o·cal /ˌʌnɪˈkwɪvəkəl◂/ *adj fml* completely clear; allowing no possibility of doubt: *an unequivocal refusal* —**cally** /kli/ *adv*

un·er·ring /ʌnˈɜːrɪŋ/ *adj* habitually making no mistakes, esp. in hitting something or reaching the right point: *With unerring judgment|aim he repeatedly hit the centre of the target.* —~**ly** *adv*

UNESCO /juːˈneskəʊ/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; an organization through which richer nations help poorer ones

un·e·ven /ʌnˈiːvən/ *adj* **1** not smooth, flat, or level: *The road surface is very uneven here.* | *Her hair has been badly cut and the ends are uneven.* **2** irregular: *His heart beat at an uneven rate.* —compare EVEN[2] (4) **3** varying in quality or in type; INCONSISTENT: *His work has been rather uneven this year.* (=has often been bad) **4** not equal or balanced equally: *an uneven contest* **5** (of a number) ODD —~**ly** *adv* : *The two teams are unevenly matched.* (=not equal in size or ability) —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·e·vent·ful /ˌʌnɪˈventfəl◂/ *adj* with nothing unusual or exciting happening: *an uneventful life|day|journey* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·ex·am·pled /ˌʌnɪgˈzɑːmpəld◂‖-ˈzæm-/ *adj fml* greater or better than anything else of the same type has ever been; EXCEPTIONAL: *unexampled bravery*

un·ex·cep·tio·na·ble /ˌʌnɪkˈsepʃənəbəl◂/ *adj fml* that cannot be disapproved of; quite satisfactory: *unexceptionable behaviour* —**-bly** *adv*

un·ex·cep·tion·al /ˌʌnɪkˈsepʃənəl/ *adj fml* not at all unusual; ordinary

un·ex·pur·gat·ed /ʌnˈekspəgeɪtɨd‖-pər-/ *adj* (of a book, play, etc.) with nothing that is considered improper taken out; complete

un·fail·ing /ʌnˈfeɪlɪŋ/ *adj* (esp. of something good) always present; never lost; continuous: *with unfailing interest|good humour* —see also FAIL[1] (5,6) —~**ly** *adv*

un·fair /ˌʌnˈfeəʳ◂/ *adj* not just, reasonable, or honest: *It's very unfair that the whole class should be punished because of one person's mistake.* | *Her friendship with the director gave her an unfair advantage at the interview.* —~**ly** *adv* : *He claims he was unfairly dismissed.*

unfair dis·mis·sal /ˌʌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] a situation in employment law in which a person has been unjustly dismissed from a job which he/she has held for two years or more: *You can claim unfair dismissal, and may be able to get your job back.*

un·faith·ful /ʌnˈfeɪθfəl/ *adj* [(**to**)] **1** having a sexual experience or relationship with someone other than one's husband or wife: *She was unfaithful (to her husband) for years before he found out.* —see also ADULTERY (CULTURAL NOTE) **2** *rare* not faithful or loyal —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·fal·ter·ing /ʌnˈfɔːltərɪŋ/ *adj fml, usu. apprec* firm; not changing or hesitating (HESITATE): *her unfaltering sense of duty* —see also FALTER —~**ly** *adv*

un·fath·om·a·ble /ʌnˈfæðəməbəl/ *adj esp. lit* too strange or mysterious to understand: *an unfathomable mystery* —**-bly** *adv*

un·fa·vou·ra·ble *BrE* ‖ **-vorable** *AmE* /ʌnˈfeɪvərəbəl/ *adj* [(**for, to**)] opposite to what is needed or wanted; not favourable: *The new play received unfavourable reviews.* (=which disapproved of it) | *an unfavourable situation for starting a new business* —**-bly** *adv*

un·feel·ing /ʌnˈfiːlɪŋ/ *adj* cruel; not sensitive or sympathetic towards others: *It was unfeeling of them not to grant him leave to go and see his sick wife.* —~**ly** *adv*

un·fet·tered /ʌnˈfetəd‖-ərd/ *adj esp. fml or lit* free from control; not tied by severe rules: *The new city developed quickly, unfettered by the usual planning regulations.*

un·fit /ˌʌnˈfɪt◂/ *adj* **1** not in good health or good physical condition: *She was unfit and couldn't play in the big match.* **2** [(**for**)] not having the right qualities or skills: *an unfit mother* | *She is unfit for motherhood.* [F+*to-v*] *He is unfit to hold public office.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·flag·ging /ʌnˈflægɪŋ/ *adj* without becoming tired or weak; TIRELESS: *unflagging interest|enthusiasm* —~**ly** *adv*

un·flap·pa·ble /ʌnˈflæpəbəl/ *adj infml apprec* never losing one's calmness, even in difficult situations: *My secretary's quite unflappable and would keep working even if the office was burning down!* —**-bly** *adv*

un·flinch·ing /ʌnˈflɪntʃɪŋ/ *adj apprec, esp. lit* firm and fearless: *unflinching eyes* | *unflinching courage* —~**ly** *adv*

un·fold /ʌnˈfəʊld/ *v* [I;T] **1** to open from a folded position: *She unfolded the map and spread it on the table.* **2** to (cause to) become clear, more fully known, etc.: *The story unfolds as the film goes on.* | *It was a strange tale he unfolded.*

un·fore·seen /ˌʌnfɔːˈsiːn◂‖-fɔːr-/ *adj* unexpected: *unforeseen delays* | *Due to* **unforeseen circumstances** *the opening has been postponed.*

un·for·get·ta·ble /ˌʌnfəˈgetəbəl◂‖-fər-/ *adj usu. apprec* (of an experience) too strong in effect to be forgotten: *The colours of Africa|England in the spring are unforgettable.* | *an unforgettable holiday* —**-bly** *adv*

un·for·tu·nate[1] /ʌnˈfɔːtʃənɨt‖-ˈfɔːr-/ *adj* **1** having, showing, or bringing bad luck, esp. undeserved bad luck: *an unfortunate accident* | *These unfortunate people have been thrown out of their homes.* **2** that makes one sorry; REGRETTABLE: *It is most unfortunate that I was not informed about this earlier.* (=it would have been better if I had been) **3** *euph* rather rude or tactless (TACT): *an unfortunate remark which had clearly caused offence* | *He has a rather unfortunate manner.*

unfortunate[2] *n euph, esp. fml or lit* an unlucky person, esp. who has no social advantages, no home or job, etc.

un·for·tu·nate·ly /ʌnˈfɔːtʃənɨtli‖-ˈfɔːr-/ *adv* it is/was a bad thing that ...; I am afraid that ...: *Unfortunately, they were out when we called.*

un·found·ed /ʌnˈfaʊndɨd/ *adj* not supported by facts; baseless: *unfounded rumours|accusations* | *The suggestion that I wanted her to leave is quite unfounded.*

un·fre·quent·ed /ˌʌnfrɪˈkwentɨd◂/ *adj fml* not often visited by many people: *an unfrequented spot*

un·frock /ʌnˈfrɒk‖ʌnˈfrɑːk/ *v* [T] to DEFROCK

un·furl /ʌnˈfɜːl‖-ɜːrl/ *v* [T] to unroll and open (a flag, sail, etc.)

un·gain·ly /ʌnˈgeɪnli/ *adj* not graceful; awkward in movement: *a tall ungainly youth* —**-liness** *n* [U]

un·glued /ʌnˈgluːd/ *adj* [F] *AmE infml* upset: *He* **came unglued** *when I told him about the fire.*

un·god·ly /ʌnˈgɒdli‖-ˈgɑːd-/ *adj* **1** *lit derog* showing lack of respect for God and religion; wicked **2** [A] *infml* unreasonable: *I had to get up at an ungodly hour this morning.* (=very early)

un·gov·er·na·ble /ʌnˈgʌvənəbəl‖-vər-/ *adj fml* uncontrollable: *an ungovernable temper*

un·grate·ful /ʌnˈgreɪtfəl/ *adj* **1** not expressing thanks, esp. when thanks are deserved; not grateful: *an ungrateful child* | *Don't be so ungrateful!* **2** *fml or lit* (of work or action) unpleasant and bringing no reward or result; THANKLESS —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·grudg·ing /ʌnˈgrʌdʒɪŋ/ *adj* willing; without holding back: *ungrudging support*

un·guard·ed /ʌnˈgɑːdɨd‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* unwisely careless, esp. in speech: *I agreed to do it* **in an unguarded moment,** *and I've regretted it ever since.* | *an unguarded remark*

un·guent /ˈʌŋgwənt/ *n lit* a thick oily substance used on the skin; OINTMENT

un·hand /ʌnˈhænd/ *v* [T *usu. imperative*] *old use* to take one's hands off (someone); stop holding

un·hap·pi·ly /ʌnˈhæpɨli/ *adv* **1** in an unhappy way **2** unfortunately: *Unhappily, she was not able to complete the course.*

un·hap·py /ʌnˈhæpi/ *adj* **1** not happy; sad: *an unhappy face|childhood* **2** [(**about, at**)] not satisfied or comfortable in the mind; UNEASY: *We are unhappy about|at the way the press has treated this incident.* **3** *fml* unsuitable: *an unhappy remark|choice of colours* **4** unlucky: *an unhappy coincidence* —**-piness** *n* [U]

un·health·y /ʌnˈhelθi/ *adj* **1** not usually in good health: *unhealthy children who don't get good food and fresh air* **2** not likely to give good health: *unhealthy living conditions | an unhealthy environment* **3** showing illness or bad health: *an unhealthy pale skin* **4** *derog* unnatural; MORBID: *an unhealthy interest in torture and pain* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

un·heard /ˌʌnˈhɜːd◂‖-ɜːrd◂/ *adj* [F] not listened to: *Her complaints* **went** (=were) **unheard.**

unheard-of /·ˈ· ·/ *adj* very unusual; never having happened in the past; UNPRECEDENTED: *It's unheard-of for anyone to pass the exam so young.*

un·hinge /ʌnˈhɪndʒ/ *v* [T] to make mad: *The terrible experience has unhinged him|his mind.*

un·hitch /ʌnˈhɪtʃ/ *v* [T] **1** unfasten; free from being connected **2 get unhitched** *AmE infml* DIVORCE

un·ho·ly /ʌnˈhəʊli/ *adj* **1** [A] *infml* terrible; unreasonable: *They made an unholy din.* **2** not holy or not respecting what is holy

unholy al·li·ance /·ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* a grouping of people or esp. organizations that are usu. separate or opposed but have come together for a bad purpose

un·hoped-for /ʌnˈhəʊpt fɔːr/ *adj* too good to be expected: *unhoped-for success*

un·horse /ʌnˈhɔːs‖-ɔːrs/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *esp. lit* to cause to fall from a horse

uni- see WORD FORMATION

UNICEF /ˈjuːnɨsef/ United Nations International Children's Fund; an organization that helps children in the world suffering from disease, hunger, etc.

u·ni·corn /ˈjuːnɨkɔːn‖-kɔːrn/ *n* in ancient stories, an imaginary horselike animal with one long straight horn growing out of the front of its head

u·ni·cy·cle /ˈjuːnisaɪkl/ *n* a vehicle moved by PEDALS, like a bicycle, but with only one wheel

un·i·den·ti·fied /ˌʌnaɪˈdentɨfaɪd◂/ *adj* whose name, nature, or origin is unknown: *An unidentified man was seen near the scene of the murder.* —see also UFO

u·ni·fi·ca·tion /ˌjuːnɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U] the act or result of unifying; uniting: *The unification of Italy resulted in a single country instead of several kingdoms.*

Unification Church /ˌ···ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] the official name for the MOONIES

u·ni·form[1] /ˈjuːnɨfɔːm‖-fɔːrm/ *n* [C;U] a certain type of clothing which is worn by all the members of a group or organization, e.g. in the army, a school, or the police: *Policemen and postmen wear blue uniforms. | school uniform | He was* **in uniform** (=in the army, navy, etc.) *for three years.*

uniform[2] *adj* the same all over; not different or varying in any way; regular: *The air-conditioning system maintains a uniform temperature throughout the building. | rows of dull uniform houses* —~**ly** *adv*: *The sky was uniformly* (=completely) *grey. | These cakes are uniformly* (=all) *disgusting.* —~**ity** /ˌjuːnɨˈfɔːmɨti‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U]: *the drab uniformity of the houses in this area*

uniform busi·ness rate /ˌ··· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* (in Britain) a standard charge payable by businesses for local government services, introduced at the time of the Community Charge

u·ni·formed /ˈjuːnɨfɔːmd‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* wearing uniform: *Two policemen came to the door; one was uniformed and the other was in plain clothes.*

u·ni·fy /ˈjuːnɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** to combine parts of (something) to form a single whole: *Spain was unified in the 16th century.* **2** to make all the same; make uniform

u·ni·lat·e·ral /ˌjuːnɨˈlætərəl◂/ *adj* done by or having an effect on only one side, esp. one of the political groups in an agreement: *a unilateral declaration of independence by a member country* | **unilateral** *nuclear* **disarmament** —compare BILATERAL, MULTILATERAL —~**ly** *adv*: *The government imposed the new pay deal unilaterally.*

U·ni·le·ver /ˈjuːnɨliːvəʳ/ a British company dealing in food products, DETERGENTS, etc.

un·im·peach·a·ble /ˌʌnɪmˈpiːtʃəbəl◂/ *adj fml apprec* that cannot be doubted or questioned: *an unimpeachable character|witness | I heard the rumour from an unimpeachable source.* —**-bly** *adv*

un·im·proved /ˌʌnɪmˈpruːvd◂/ *adj esp. AmE* (of land) not built upon, farmed, or connected to services such as water, SEWER, electricity, etc.: *a sale of unimproved lots*

un·in·formed /ˌʌnɪnˈfɔːmd◂‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* showing a lack of knowledge or enough information: *an uninformed guess | uninformed opinions* —see also INFORMED

un·in·hab·i·ta·ble /ˌʌnɪnˈhæbɨtəbəl◂/ *adj* unfit to be lived in: *The planet Jupiter is uninhabitable.* —opposite **habitable**; see also INHABIT

un·in·hib·it·ed /ˌʌnɪnˈhɪbɨtɨd◂/ *adj* free in behaviour and feelings, esp. doing and saying what one likes without worrying about what other people think; having no INHIBITIONS: *an uninhibited person | uninhibited laughter* —~**ly** *adv*

un·i·ni·ti·at·ed /ˌʌnɪˈnɪʃieɪtɨd/ *n* [*the*+P] *fml or humor* people who are not among those who have special knowledge or experience

un·in·spired /ˌʌnɪnˈspaɪəd◂‖-ərd◂/ *adj* dull; not showing imagination: *an uninspired performance*

un·in·spir·ing /ˌʌnɪnˈspaɪərɪŋ◂/ *adj* not encouraging the imagination or interest: *an uninspiring lecture|piece of architecture*

un·in·terest·ed /ʌnˈɪntrɨstɨd/ *adj* [(**in**)] not interested —see DISINTERESTED (USAGE)

un·in·ter·rupt·ed /ˌʌnɪntəˈrʌptɨd◂/ *adj* continuous —~**ly** *adv*

u·nion /ˈjuːnjən/ *n* **1** [C+*sing./pl. v*] (*often cap.*) (esp. in names and titles) a club or society, esp. a TRADE UNION: *Do you belong to a union? | the Students' Union* **2** [C] (*often cap.*) a group of countries or states joined together: *the Soviet Union | the US president's State of the Union address* **3** [S;U] the act of joining or state of being joined into one: *This artist's work shows a perfect union of craftsmanship with|and imagination.* **4** [C;U] *lit or pomp* marriage: *Their union was blessed by children.* (=They had children.) **5** (often cap.) the northern states during the US Civil War: *the Union army*

Union Car·bide /ˌjuːnjən ˈkɑːbaɪd‖-ˈkɑːr-/ an American chemicals company whose factory in Bhopal, India leaked (LEAK[1](1)) poisonous substances in 1984, causing deaths and illness on a large scale among its workers and the surrounding population

u·nion·is·m /ˈjuːnjənɪzəm/ *n* [U] trade unionism (TRADE UNION) —**-ist** *n*

Unionism *n* [U] the principles of a political party (**Ulster Unionists**) that wishes Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom —**-ist** *n, adj*

u·nion·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈjuːnjənaɪz/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become a member of a TRADE UNION: *unionized labour | This factory has recently unionized|been unionized.* —**-ization** /ˌjuːnjənaɪˈzeɪʃən‖ˌjuːnjənə-/ *n* [U]

Union Jack /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Union Flag** /ˈ·· ·/ *tech*— [*the*] the national flag of Great Britain, made up of three flags (the crosses of Saints George, Andrew, and Patrick) representing England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Union Jacks are waved or flown on PATRIOTIC occasions. —see picture at FLAG

Union of South Af·ri·ca /ˌ·· · · ˈ···/ [*the*] the official name of SOUTH AFRICA

Union of So·vi·et So·cia·list Re·pub·lics /ˌ··· · ˌ··· ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ also **USSR, Soviet Union**— [*the*] until 1991, the largest country in the world, bordering on the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, and the Baltic and Black Seas, and made up of 15 republics. The USSR was formed after the Russian Revolution in 1917 as a COMMUNIST state, under the leadership of Lenin. The country was for a long time one of the two SUPERPOWERS (the other being the USA), but it broke apart when most of its republics failed to support the president Mikhail Gorbachev. Eleven of the newly independent states grouped together to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), but some, such as Latvia, became completely independent states —see also COLD WAR, GLASNOST, PERESTROIKA, STALIN

Union Sta·tion /ˌ·· ˈ··/ the name of the main passenger train station in many US cities: *Chicago Union Station*

union suit /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* COMBINATIONS

u·nique /juːˈniːk/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] being the only one of its type: *Each person's fingerprints are unique.* (=different from anyone else's) **2** *infml* unusual: *The town is fairly unique in the wide range of leisure facilities it offers.* **3**

greater or esp. better than any other: *a unique knowledge of ancient Roman coins* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE Many people think it is incorrect to use expressions like "almost unique", "fairly unique", etc., since they suggest that **unique** does not mean "the only one".◁

u·ni·sex /ˈjuːnɨseks/ *adj* of one type which can be used by both male and female: *unisex clothes* | *a unisex hairdresser*

u·ni·son /ˈjuːnɨsən, -zən/ *n* [(**in**) U] **1** the doing of something by everyone in agreement or at the same time: *The governments acted in unison to combat terrorism.* **2** musical performance in which everyone plays or sings the same note

u·nit /ˈjuːnɨt/ *n* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of things or people forming a complete whole but usu. part of a larger group: *The commander sent a unit of cavalry out to investigate.* | *The family is the smallest social unit.* | *She works in the X-ray unit at the hospital.* **2** [(**of**)] an amount or quantity used as a standard of measurement: *The pound is the standard unit of currency in Britain.* | *Give him two units of morphia.* **3 a** (*usu. in comb.*) a piece, esp. of furniture, storage equipment, etc., esp. one which can be fitted with others of the same type: *a kitchen unit* | *a sink unit* **b** any of the usu. numbered divisions of a TEXTBOOK **4** *esp. tech* a single complete thing: *The car factory's output is now up to 15,000 units* (=cars) *per month.* **5** *tech* **a** the smallest whole number; the number 1 **b** any whole number less than ten: *hundreds, tens, and units*

U·ni·tar·i·an /ˌjuːnɨˈteəriən◂/ *n, adj* (a member) of a branch of the Christian church which believes in religious freedom

u·nite /juːˈnaɪt/ *v* [I;T] **1** to make or form a single complete whole; make or become one; join: *The priest united them in marriage.* | *The two colours/rivers mixed and united.* | *The two companies plan to unite.* **2** [(**in, for, against**)] to come or bring together into one group for a shared action or purpose: *They united in condemning this terrorist outrage.* [+*to-v*] *The two governments have united to combat terrorism.* | *The threat of war united the various political groups in the country.*

u·nit·ed /juːˈnaɪtɨd/ *adj* **1** firmly joined in a state of love, agreement, etc.: *They are a very united family.* **2** with everyone concerned having the same aim: *a united effort* | *We are united in our determination to eradicate famine.* **3** [A] (*cap. in names*) politically joined —~**ly** *adv*

United *n* (used in the names of British football clubs): *Manchester United*

United Arab Emirates /ˌ·ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the* + P] (abbrev. **UAE**) a country in NE Arabia, between Qatar and Oman, made up of seven EMIRATES (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Ras al Khayma, Sharjah, and Umm al Qaywayn); capital Abu Dhabi; population 1,546,000 (1989). The land is mainly desert, but the country sells a great deal of oil.

United Artists /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ··/ a film company (STUDIO (2)) in Hollywood, California

United Farm Workers /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ (*abbrev.* **UFW**) [*the*] and American TRADE UNION that represents mostly poor MIGRANT people who move around picking fruit and vegetables to earn a living

United Kingdom /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a country in W Europe, officially called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, made up of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland; capital London; population 57,205,000 (1989) —compare ENGLAND and see UK (USAGE)

United Nations /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ··/ see UN

United Negro College Fund /ˌ·ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] an American CHARITY that supports black students and black universities

United Reformed Church /ˌ·ˌ·· ·ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the*] a branch of the Christian church formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England joined with the Congregational Church of England and Wales

United States of America /ˌ·ˌ·· ˌ· · ·ˈ···/ also **United States** /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ·/, **USA, US, America**— [*the*+P] a country in North America, made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia, where the capital is; capital Washington D.C.; population 248,762,000 (1989). The land was colonized (COLONIZE) mainly by the British and the French in the 17th century, but growing disagreement between Britain and the colonies (COLONY) led to the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Further lands were added to the nation over the following century. Differences between the North and the South led to the Civil War. The United States is the chief industrial nation in the world, and is noted for its high standard of living, as well as for its large need for ENERGY and raw materials.

United Way /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] an American CHARITY that collects money mostly from working people and divides it among several other charities

unit trust /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **mutual fund** *AmE*— *n* a company through which one can buy SHARES in many different businesses

u·ni·ty /ˈjuːnɨti/ *n* **1** [S;U] the state of being united, joined, or in agreement together: *church unity* | *Her speech was an appeal for party unity.* | *a new unity of purpose* **2** [C] a single whole thing made from related parts **3** [U] *tech* the number one: *A number less than unity is zero or a minus number.*

u·ni·ver·sal /ˌjuːnɨˈvɜːsəl◂‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** concerning or shared by all members of a group: *There was universal agreement as to who should become chairman.* (=everyone agreed) | *universal rejoicing* **2** of or for everyone or everything; widespread; general: *a subject of universal interest* | *universal primary education* (=for all the children in a country) —~**ity** /ˌjuːnɨvɜːˈsælɨti‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U]

Universal a film company (STUDIO (2)) in Hollywood, California

Universal Declaration of Human Rights /ˌ···· ··ˌ·· · ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a 1948 statement by the United Nations about the rights which all people in the world should have

universal joint /ˌ···· ˈ·/ *n* a JOINT, e.g. in a machine, which can turn in all directions

u·ni·ver·sal·ly /ˌjuːnɨˈvɜːsəli‖-ɜːr-/ *adv* **1** by everyone: *universally accepted/disliked* **2** everywhere: *universally present*

u·ni·verse /ˈjuːnɨvɜːs‖-ɜːrs/ *n* [*the*+S] (*often cap.*) all space and everything that exists in it: *Stars are found in every part of the known universe.*

u·ni·ver·si·ty /ˌjuːnɨˈvɜːsɨti◂‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] a place of education at the highest level, where degrees are given: *Did you go to university?* (=study at a university) | *a university professor/campus* —see also extra information on page 408

University Challenge /ˌ····· ˈ··/ a very difficult QUIZ show on British television, played by students from universities and colleges and presented by Bamber Gascoigne. People remember it esp. for the CATCHPHRASE "Your starter for ten..." (=your first question for ten points).

University of Chicago /··ˌ··· · ·ˈ··/ [*the*] a private university on the south side of Chicago, known for its RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, and teaching of high standard in law, business, medicine, and other fields

University of London /··ˌ··· · ˈ··/ [*the*] a university based in London, originally formed out of University College and King's College in 1836. It is the oldest university in England after the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

UNIX /ˈjuːnɪks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a computer OPERATING SYSTEM that runs on computers of all different sizes and kinds

un·just /ˌʌnˈdʒʌst◂/ *adj* not right or fair; not JUST²: *an unjust judge/decision*

un·kempt /ˌʌnˈkempt◂/ *adj* **1** having untidy clothes and hair **2** (of the hair) untidy

un·kind /ˌʌnˈkaɪnd◂/ *adj* not kind; cruel or thoughtless: *an unkind remark* | (fig.) *unkind weather* —~**ly** *adv* : *She spoke unkindly.* | *She didn't mean it unkindly.* —~**ness** *n* [C;U] —see also **the unkindest cut** (CUT² (12))

un·know·ing /ʌnˈnəʊɪŋ/ *adj esp. lit* not knowing or understanding; UNAWARE: *By buying the stolen jewels she became an unknowing accomplice to the robbery.* —~**ly** *adv*

un·known¹ /ˌʌnˈnəʊn◂/ *adj* [(**to**)] whose name, nature, or origin is not known: *a previously unknown* (=not famous) *painter*

unknown² *n* an unknown person or thing: *The director cast her in a leading part when she was a young unknown of 18.* | *The space voyagers set off on their journey into the unknown.*

unknown quan·ti·ty /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* **1** a person or thing whose qualities and abilities are not yet known **2** (in MATHEMATICS) a number represented by the letter x

Unknown Sol·dier /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a soldier whose name is not known, whose body is buried within a national MONUMENT (usu. called the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**) as a representative of all the people in the same nation who died in a war, esp. in the First or Second World Wars

un·law·ful /ʌnˈlɔːfəl/ *adj esp. tech* against the law; illegal: *unlawful assembly* —~**ly** *adv* : *unlawfully killed*

un·lead·ed /ˌʌnˈledɨd◂/ *adj* (of petrol) not containing compounds of lead. Unleaded petrol was introduced in Britain in the late 1980s, largely because of public anxiety about the harmful effects of lead in the environment. It has been used in the US since the 1970s.

un·learn /ˌʌnˈlɜːn‖-ɜːrn/ *v* [T] to forget intentionally (something learnt, such as a fact or belief): *We've had to unlearn the old system of teaching mathematics.*

un·leash /ʌnˈliːʃ/ *v* [T (**on, upon**)] to set (feelings, forces, etc.) free from control and allow them to act with full force: *All his anger was unleashed upon us.* | *The enemy bombers unleashed a terrible attack on the city.*

un·leav·ened /ʌnˈlevənd/ *adj* (of bread) made without YEAST, and therefore rather flat and solid

un·less /ʌnˈles, ən-/ *conj* if ... not; except on the condition that: *Do not leave the building unless instructed to do so.* | *Unless the government agrees to give extra money, the theatre will have to close.*

▷ USAGE Compare **unless** and **if...not.** 1 **Unless** is not used of imaginary events. We cannot use **unless** in these sentences: *She would have died* (=an imaginary event) **if** *the doctors had* **not** *saved her.* | **If** *he* **weren't** *so stupid* (=an imaginary situation) *he would understand.* 2 **Unless** can only be used instead of **if ... not** when there is an idea of ending an intention or situation that already exists (not of starting a new one): *I'll stay at home* **unless** *I'm invited*/**if** *I'm* **not** *invited to the party* (=an invitation would end my present intention to stay at home). **Unless** is very unlikely in the following sentence: *I'll be angry* **if** *I'm* **not** *invited to the party* (=not being invited would make me angry, but I am not angry at present).◁

un·let·tered /ʌnˈletəd‖-ərd/ *adj fml or lit* **1** not well educated **2** not able to read; ILLITERATE

un·like[1] /ˌʌnˈlaɪk◂/ *prep* **1** different from: *She's very unlike her mother.* | *Unlike their commercial rivals, the company has made big profits this year.* **2** not typical of: *It's unlike him to be late: he's usually on time.*

unlike[2] *adj* [F] *fml or lit* not alike; different

un·like·ly /ʌnˈlaɪkli/ *adj* **1** [F] not expected; improbable: *He may come, but it's very unlikely.* | *It's unlikely that the thieves will ever be caught.* [+*to-v*] *They're unlikely to marry.* —opposite **likely** **2** not likely to be true: *an unlikely story/explanation* —**-liness, -lihood** *n* [U]

un·list·ed /ʌnˈlɪstɨd/ *adj* **1** not listed on an official STOCK EXCHANGE list: *unlisted securities* —see also USM **2** *AmE for* EX-DIRECTORY: *Her phone number is unlisted.*

un·load /ʌnˈləʊd/ *v* **1** [T] to remove (a load) from (something): *Have you unloaded the car/the parcels from the car?* **2** [I;T] to have (a load) removed: *The ship is unloading (its cargo) in the harbour.* **3** [I;T] to remove the bullets, etc., from (a gun) or film from (a camera) **4** [T (**on**)] *infml* to get rid of (something unwanted): *They've bought up thousands of cheap videos which they want to unload on the British market.* —compare OFF-LOAD —~**er** *n*

un·lock /ʌnˈlɒk‖-lɑːk/ *v* [T] to unfasten the lock of: *She unlocked the door and then opened it.* | (fig.) *Scientists have unlocked the secrets of the atom.*

un·looked-for /ʌnˈlʊkt fɔːr/ *adj esp. lit* unexpected

un·loose /ʌnˈluːs/ *v* [T] to UNLEASH: *He unloosed a stream of abuse.*

un·loos·en /ʌnˈluːsən/ *v* [T] to make loose(r) or unfasten; loosen: *He sat down and unloosened his belt.*

un·luck·y /ʌnˈlʌki/ *adj* not lucky; having or bringing bad luck: *We've been very unlucky with that car — it's always breaking down.* | *She was unlucky enough to break her leg on the first day of her holiday.* —**-ily** *adv*

►CULTURAL NOTE Some things which are considered unlucky are: Friday when it is the 13th day of a month, walking under a ladder, breaking a mirror, and, in Britain, seeing just one MAGPIE. Few people really believe that these things bring bad luck, but unlucky things are still sometimes mentioned —see also SUPERSTITION (CULTURAL NOTE)◄

un·made /ˌʌnˈmeɪd◂/ *adj* **1** (of a bed) not having the sheets, etc., put in order ready for sleeping **2** *BrE* ‖ **unpaved** *AmE*— (of a road) without a finished level surface

un·manned /ˌʌnˈmænd◂/ *adj* (of a machine, esp. a spacecraft) having no people on board or in control: *an unmanned mission to Mars* | *an unmanned level crossing*

un·man·ner·ly /ʌnˈmænəli‖-ər-/ *adj fml derog* impolite; ILLMANNERED: *unmannerly behaviour*

un·mar·ried /ˌʌnˈmærid◂/ *adj* not married; SINGLE: *unmarried mothers*

un·mask /ʌnˈmɑːsk‖-mæsk/ *v* [T] to show the hidden truth about: *The thief was unmasked.* (=we found out who it was)

un·matched /ˌʌnˈmætʃt◂/ *adj* with no other like it; greater or better than any other; MATCHLESS: *unmatched courage* | *He remains unmatched as a writer of satire.*

un·men·tio·na·ble /ʌnˈmenʃənəbəl/ *adj* too shocking to be spoken about

un·men·tio·na·bles /ʌnˈmenʃənəbəlz/ *n* [P] *old euph or humor for* UNDERCLOTHES

un·mind·ful /ʌnˈmaɪndfəl/ *adj* [F+**of**] *fml* forgetting or not taking into account: *Unmindful of the consequences, she allowed them to do as they wished.*

un·mis·ta·ka·ble /ˌʌnmɨˈsteɪkəbəl/ *adj* clearly recognizable; too clear to be mistaken for anything else: *the unmistakable sound of breaking glass* | *That must be Jim — his walk's unmistakable.* —**-bly** *adv*

un·mit·i·gat·ed /ʌnˈmɪtɨgeɪtɨd/ *adj* [A] (of something bad) complete; not lessened or excused in any way: *unmitigated rudeness* | *The conference was an unmitigated disaster.*

un·moved /ʌnˈmuːvd/ *adj* [F] **1** showing no pity or sympathy: *He remained unmoved by her appeals.* —compare MOVE[1] (5) **2** not worried; calm

un·nat·u·ral /ʌnˈnætʃərəl/ *adj* **1** not natural; different from what is usual or expected: *a pearl of unnatural size and beauty* | *It's not unnatural that she should feel annoyed.* **2** *derog* against ordinary and generally accepted ways of behaving: *unnatural sexual practices* **3** not sincere: *an unnatural laugh/manner* —~**ly** *adv* : *an unnaturally large head* | *He had expected, not unnaturally, that she would be there to meet him.*

un·ne·ces·sa·ry /ʌnˈnesəsəri‖-seri/ *adj* not necessary or wanted; additional to what is needed or expected: *Don't bring any unnecessary luggage.* | *That was an unnecessary remark; it would have been better not to mention her ex-husband.* —**-rily** /ʌnˈnesəsərəli‖ˌʌn-nesəˈserəli/ *adv* : *an unnecessarily severe punishment*

un·nerve /ˌʌnˈnɜːv‖-ɜːrv/ *v* [T] to take away (someone's) courage or confidence: *an unnerving experience* | *The experience completely unnerved me.*

un·num·bered /ˌʌnˈnʌmbəd◂‖-ərd◂/ *adj* **1** not having a number marked: *an unnumbered Swiss bank account* **2** *esp. lit* too many to be counted

UNO /ˈjuːnəʊ/ *abbrev for* United Nations Organization — see UN

un·ob·tru·sive /ˌʌnəbˈtruːsɪv◂/ *adj usu. apprec* not very noticeable or easily seen: *He's a quiet unobtrusive student, but he always does well in exams.* —~**ly** *adv* : *The new office block blends unobtrusively with its surroundings.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·of·fi·cial /ˌʌnəˈfɪʃəl◂/ *adj* not official: *an unofficial meeting* | *It's unofficial* (=has not yet been officially stated), *but I know he's got the job.* —~**ly** *adv*

unofficial strike /ˌ···· ˈ·/ *n* a STRIKE[2](1) which has not been approved in advance by the TRADE UNION involved

un·or·tho·dox /ʌnˈɔːθədɒks‖ʌnˈɔːrθədɑːks/ *adj* different from usual or ordinary beliefs, methods, etc.: *He's got a very unorthodox style of playing tennis, but he usually wins.* | *unorthodox opinions* | *an unorthodox form of medical treatment* —compare HETERODOX

un·pack /ʌnˈpæk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to remove (possessions) from (a container): *Have you unpacked (your clothes/your suitcase) yet?* **2** [T] *tech* to change (information stored in a

computer) into a form that takes up more space but is easier to understand **3** [T] *infml* to make (a word or statement) more clear by showing or telling parts of it that are not understood: *Could you unpack that remark about my sister's boyfriend?*

un·paid /ˌʌnˈpeɪd◂/ *adj* **1** which has not been paid: *I'm just the unpaid maid in this house!* | *an unpaid bill* **2** (used of work, etc.) done without receiving payment: *unpaid voluntary work*

un·pal·at·a·ble /ʌnˈpælətəbəl/ *adj fml* unpleasant and difficult for the mind to accept: *Sometimes the truth is unpalatable.*

un·par·al·leled /ʌnˈpærəleld/ *adj fml* too great to be equalled: *an unparalleled success* | *a period of unparalleled economic prosperity*

un·par·lia·men·ta·ry /ˌʌnpɑːləˈmentəri‖-pɑːr-/ *adj tech* (of an action or remark in a parliament) not in accordance with the accepted rules of behaviour in parliament – compare PARLIAMENTARY

un·pick /ʌnˈpɪk/ *v* [T] to take out (the stitches) from (something): *First unpick the old stitches|the seams.*

un·placed /ˌʌnˈpleɪst◂/ *adj BrE* not one of the first three to finish in a race or competition

un·play·a·ble /ʌnˈpleɪəbəl/ *adj* **1** (of music) too difficult to be played **2** (of a ball in sports) too well thrown, hit, etc., to be hit back; too difficult to hit **3** (of a piece of ground used for sports) not suitable for playing on

un·pleas·ant /ʌnˈplezənt/ *adj* causing dislike, annoyance, or displeasure; not pleasant or enjoyable; DISAGREEABLE: *unpleasant smells|weather* | *an unpleasant experience|job* | *The bad sales figures came as an unpleasant surprise.* | *He was very unpleasant to me* (=rude or unkind) *when I asked him for his advice.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [C;U] : *Don't let the recent unpleasantness spoil our friendship!*

un·plug /ʌnˈplʌg/ *v* [T] **1** to disconnect (an electrical apparatus) from an electric CIRCUIT by removing a PLUG: *I've unplugged the TV set.* **2** to remove (e.g. an electric PLUG) from its SOCKET: *Unplug the cable from the back of the computer.*

un·plumbed /ˌʌnˈplʌmd◂/ *adj* not known about because of not having been examined or explored (EXPLORE): *exploring the* **unplumbed depths** *of personality*

un·pre·ce·dent·ed /ʌnˈpresɨdentɨd/ *adj* never having happened before: *unprecedented rainfall|price increases* –see also PRECEDENT –~**ly** *adv*

un·pre·dict·a·ble /ˌʌnprɪˈdɪktəbəl◂/ *adj* **1** that cannot be predicted (PREDICT): *the unpredictable consequences of a major war* **2** (of a person) tending to show sudden unexpected changes, in behaviour, ideas, etc.; not dependable or STABLE

un·pre·pos·ses·sing /ˌʌnpriːpəˈzesɪŋ/ *adj* not immediately noticeable; ordinary: *an unprepossessing man|building*

un·pre·ten·tious /ˌʌnprɪˈtenʃəs◂/ *adj apprec* not attempting to seem special, important, wealthy, etc.; without PRETENSION: *It's an unpretentious little house but very elegantly furnished.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

un·prin·ci·pled /ʌnˈprɪnsɨpəld/ *adj fml* (done) without regard to moral values, standards of honourable behaviour, etc.; UNSCRUPULOUS: *unprincipled behaviour* | *an unprincipled scoundrel* –see also PRINCIPLE

un·prin·ta·ble /ʌnˈprɪntəbə́l/ *adj* (of words) too offensive to be printed, esp. in a newspaper: *Her reply was unprintable.*

un·pro·fes·sion·al /ˌʌnprəˈfeʃənəl◂/ *adj derog* not typical of the standard which is expected in a particular profession or activity: *unprofessional conduct* | *It was unprofessional of you not to check the facts before issuing the statement.* | *a very unprofessional piece of work* –~**ly** *adv*

un·prompt·ed /ʌnˈprɒmptɨd‖ʌnˈprɑːmp-/ *adj fml, often apprec* done or produced without being asked for, suggested, etc.; SPONTANEOUS: *her unprompted generosity*

un·pro·voked /ˌʌnprəˈvəʊkt◂/ *adj* (esp. of a bad action) not caused or forced by another action; without PROVOCATION: *an unprovoked attack*

un·pun·ished /ʌnˈpʌnɪʃt/ *adj* [F] not given any punishment: *Their behaviour cannot be allowed to* **go unpunished.**

un·qual·i·fied /ʌnˈkwɒlɨfaɪd‖-ˈkwɑː-/ *adj* **1** [**(for)**] not having suitable knowledge or QUALIFICATIONS: *unqualified school-leavers* [F+*to-v*] *I am quite unqualified to talk on this subject.* **2** not limited; complete: *It was an unqualified success.*

un·ques·tio·na·ble /ʌnˈkwestʃənəbəl/ *adj* which cannot be doubted; certain; INDISPUTABLE: *His keenness is unquestionable, but he may not be experienced enough.* – compare QUESTIONABLE –**-bly** *adv* : *unquestionably the best tennis player in the country*

un·ques·tion·ing /ʌnˈkwestʃənɪŋ/ *adj* without any doubt, delay, or argument: *an unquestioning trust in God* | *unquestioning obedience*

un·qui·et /ʌnˈkwaɪɨt/ *adj esp. lit* not calm or at rest: *an unquiet stillness hung over the countryside as the thunderclouds gathered.*

un·quote /ˌʌnˈkwəʊt/ *adv* (a word used in speech for showing that one has come to the end of a QUOTATION (2)): *The figures given are (quote) "not to be trusted" (unquote), according to this writer.*

un·rav·el /ʌnˈrævəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* **1** [I;T] to become or cause (threads, cloth, etc.) to become separated or unwoven: *This sweater has started to unravel.* **2** [T] to make clear (a mystery)

un·rea·da·ble /ʌnˈriːdəbəl/ *adj* **1** *derog* too dull to be read; not worth reading **2** ILLEGIBLE –**-bly** *adv*

un·real /ˌʌnˈrɪəl◂/ *adj* (of an experience) seeming imaginary or unlike reality –~**ity** /ˌʌnriˈælɨti/ *n* [U]

un·rea·so·na·ble /ʌnˈriːzənəbəl/ *adj* **1** going beyond what is fair, acceptable, or sensible: *I think she is making quite unreasonable demands on us.* | *It's unreasonable to expect me to work all night.* **2** (of prices, costs, etc.) too great –opposite **reasonable** –**-bly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

un·rea·son·ing /ʌnˈriːzənɪŋ/ *adj fml* not using or influenced by the power of reason: *unreasoning anger*

un·re·gen·e·rate /ˌʌnrɪˈdʒenərɨt◂/ *adj fml derog* making no attempt to change one's bad practices: *an unregenerate liar*

un·re·lent·ing /ˌʌnrɪˈlentɪŋ◂/ *adj* continuous, without decreasing in power or effort: *a week of unrelenting activity* –see also RELENT, RELENTLESS –~**ly** *adv*

un·re·lieved /ˌʌnrɪˈliːvd◂/ *adj* (of something bad) not varied in any way; continuous or complete: *unrelieved anxiety|gloom|hardship* –see also RELIEVE –~**ly** /ˌʌnrɪˈliːvɨdli/ *adv* : *unrelievedly dull*

un·re·mit·ting /ˌʌnrɪˈmɪtɪŋ◂/ *adj fml* (of something difficult) never stopping; continuous: *an unremitting struggle* –~**ly** *adv*

un·re·quit·ed /ˌʌnrɪˈkwaɪtɨd◂/ *adj fml* not given in return (esp. in the phrase **unrequited love**)

un·re·served /ˌʌnrɪˈzɜːvd◂‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** *fml* without limits; complete: *They have my unreserved support.* **2** (of seats) not reserved (RESERVE¹) –~**ly** /ˌʌnrɪˈzɜːvɨdli‖-ɜːr-/ *adv* : *She apologized unreservedly.*

UN res·o·lu·tion /ˌ· · ··ˈ··/ *n* a formal statement made by the United Nations expressing its decision on a particular matter and instructing its members on what they should do

un·rest /ʌnˈrest/ *n* [U] a state of troubled or dissatisfied confusion, often with fighting: *widespread social unrest in the big cities* | *a period of industrial unrest with continual strikes*

un·re·strained /ˌʌnrɪˈstreɪnd◂/ *adj* not held back or controlled: *unrestrained anger|violence* | *the unrestrained use of force* –~**ly** /ˌʌnrɪˈstreɪnɨdli/ *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

un·ri·valled *BrE* ‖ **-valed** *AmE* /ʌnˈraɪvəld/ *adj fml* better than any other; extremely good: *an unrivalled knowledge of Chinese art* | *As a war photographer he is unrivalled.* –see also RIVAL²

un·roll /ʌnˈrəʊl/ *v* [I;T] to open from a rolled position: *She unrolled the map|the carpet.*

un·ruf·fled /ʌnˈrʌfəld/ *adj apprec* calm; not worried: *He appeared quite unruffled by these questions.*

un·ru·ly /ʌnˈruːli/ *adj* **1** wild in behaviour; difficult to control: *unruly children* **2** not easily kept in place: *unruly hair* –**-liness** *n* [U]

un·sad·dle /ʌnˈsædl/ *v* [T] **1** to remove the SADDLE from (a horse) **2** to UNSEAT (1)

un·safe sex /ˌʌnseɪf ˈseks/ *n* [U] sexual activities, esp. having sex without using a CONDOM, which put one or

both partners at risk of infection, esp. from AIDS

un·said /ʌn'sed/ *adj* [F] (thought of but) not spoken: *a tactless remark that would have been* **better left unsaid**

un·sat·u·rat·ed fat /ʌn,sætʃəreɪtɨd 'fæt/ *n* a fat with a particular kind of chemical structure. There are two kinds: **monounsaturated fats**, found in olive oil, peanuts, and avocados, and **polyunsaturated fats**, found in sunflower oil, soybean oil, and corn oil. Unsaturated fats are believed to be better for health than SATURATED FATS. — compare SATURATED FAT

un·sa·vour·y *BrE* ‖ **-vory** *AmE* /ʌn'seɪvəri/ *adj* unpleasant, esp. in being morally unacceptable: *an unsavoury character* (=person)/*reputation* | *his unsavoury business activities*

un·scathed /ʌn'skeɪðd/ *adj* [F] not harmed: *He walked away from the accident completely unscathed.*

un·scram·ble /ʌn'skræmbəl/ *v* [T] to put (esp. a message in CODE) back into order so that it can be understood

un·screw /ʌn'skruː/ *v* [T] **1** to remove the screws from: *We had to unscrew the hinges to take down the door.* **2** to undo by twisting: *I can't unscrew the top of this bottle.*

un·script·ed /ˌʌn'skrɪptɨd◂/ *adj* (esp. of a broadcast talk or conversation) not written or planned before; not based on a SCRIPT: *an unscripted interview*

un·scru·pu·lous /ʌn'skruːpjʊ̈ləs/ *adj* not caring about honesty and fairness in getting what one wants; completely without principles: *unscrupulous business methods* | *an unscrupulous salesman* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

un·sea·so·na·ble /ʌn'siːzənəbəl/ *adj* (of weather) unusual for the time of year, esp. bad —**-bly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

un·seat /ʌn'siːt/ *v* [T] **1** also **unsaddle**— (of a horse) to throw off (a rider) **2** to remove from a position of political power

UN Se·cu·ri·ty Coun·cil /ˌ· · ·'··· ˌ··/ [*the*] a branch of the United Nations with 15 members, including the US, Russia, China, France, and Britain. The UN Security Council can use economic or military force to settle international disagreements which seem likely to threaten world peace.

un·seed·ed /ˌʌn'siːdɨd◂/ *adj* not chosen as a SEED[1] (3), esp. in a tennis competition

un·see·ing /ˌʌn'siːɪŋ◂/ *adj esp. lit* not noticing anything; (as if) blind: *She stared out of the window with unseeing eyes.* —**~ly** *adv*

un·seem·ly /ʌn'siːmli/ *adj fml* not proper or suitable (in behaviour); likely to attract disapproval: *They left with unseemly haste.* —**-liness** *n* [U]

un·seen /ˌʌn'siːn/ *n esp. BrE* a piece of writing not previously seen which is to be translated into one's own language as part of an examination: *a French unseen* —see also **sight unseen** (SIGHT (16))

Un·ser /'ʌnsəʳ/, **Al** /æl/, **Sr.** (1939–) an American racing car driver

un·set·tle /ʌn'setl/ *v* [T] to make less calm, more anxious, dissatisfied, etc.: *The sudden changes unsettled her.* | *a rather unsettling film* —see also SETTLE[1] (3)

un·set·tled /ʌn'setld/ *adj* **1** not yet settled: *The dispute remains unsettled.* **2** (of weather, a political situation, etc.) changeable, esp. likely to become worse **3** (of the stomach) slightly ill: *My stomach's a bit unsettled after all that rich food.*

un·sha·kea·ble , -kable /ʌn'ʃeɪkəbəl/ *adj* firm, esp. in belief or loyalty: *an unshakeable faith in God*

un·shav·en /ʌn'ʃeɪvən/ *adj* not having shaved (SHAVE[1] (1)) or been shaved: *His unshaven face made him look rather disreputable.* | *He decided to stay unshaven.*

un·sight·ly /ʌn'saɪtli/ *adj* not pleasant to look at; ugly: *an unsightly spot on his nose* | *an unsightly modern office block* —**-liness** *n* [U]

un·skilled /ˌʌn'skɪld◂/ *adj* **1** not having training for a particular type of job: *an unskilled worker* **2** not needing special skill: *an unskilled job* —compare SKILLED

un·so·cia·ble /ʌn'səʊʃəbəl/ *adj* not enjoying social activity; not fond of being with people

un·so·cial /ˌʌn'səʊʃəl◂/ *adj* not suitable for combining with family and social life: *As a policeman you often have to work* **unsocial hours.**

un·so·phis·ti·cat·ed /ˌʌnsə'fɪstɨkeɪtɨd◂/ *adj* not SOPHISTICATED: *an unsophisticated young woman* | *unsophisticated machinery*

un·sound /ˌʌn'saʊnd◂/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a person or a building) not in a healthy or strong condition: *His heart is unsound.* | *The apartment block was declared structurally unsound.* **2 a** not firmly based: *Her argument is unsound.* (=not based on correct reasoning) | *The proposal was rejected because it was considered economically unsound.* (=likely to waste money) **b** not acceptable according to a particular set of principles: *His views on defence are regarded by some party members as ideologically unsound.* **3 of unsound mind** *law* mad, and therefore not responsible for one's actions

un·spar·ing /ʌn'speərɪŋ/ *adj* [(**in**)] holding nothing back, esp. money or help; very generous: *He was unsparing in his efforts to save the hospital from closure.* —**~ly** *adv*

un·spea·ka·ble /ʌn'spiːkəbəl/ *adj* terrible; too bad to describe: *unspeakable pain* | *his unspeakable crimes* —**-bly** *adv* : *unspeakably cruel/rude*

un·spoilt /ʌn'spɔɪlt◂/ ‖ usu. **un·spoiled** /-spɔɪld/ *AmE*— *adj* **1** not damaged or harmed: *She is completely unspoilt by her success.* **2** (of a place) not having changed for a long time: *the unspoilt beauty of these islands*

un·sta·ble /ʌn'steɪbəl/ *adj* **1** lacking strength, firmness, and balance: *This bookcase is rather unstable.* **2** not firmly based and likely to change or fail: *an unstable government/marriage* **3** (of a person) lacking steadiness of mind; changeable and not dependable **4** (of a chemical compound) likely to break down into simpler chemicals

un·stint·ing /ʌn'stɪntɪŋ/ *adj fml* very generous: *her unstinting efforts/devotion* | *She was unstinting in her praise.*

un·stop /ˌʌn'stɒp‖ˌʌn'stɑːp/ *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** to remove something that stops a flow in: *to unstop a blocked pipe* — compare STOP[1] (6) **2** to open (something closed by a STOPPER, esp. a bottle)

un·stuck /ʌn'stʌk/ *adj* [F] **1** not fastened or stuck on: *The label has come unstuck.* —see also STICK[2] (2,3) **2 come unstuck** *BrE* to be unsuccessful; not gain the intended result: *You may come unstuck if you try to cheat the tax office.*

un·stud·ied /ˌʌn'stʌdid◂/ *adj fml* natural; not resulting from practice or effort: *unstudied grace* —compare STUDIED

un·sung /ˌʌn'sʌŋ◂/ *adj esp. lit* not praised or famous although deserving to be: *an* **unsung hero** | *His achievements went unsung.*

un·swerv·ing /ʌn'swɜːvɪŋ‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* firm and unchanging: *unswerving loyalty* —see also SWERVE[1] (2)

un·tan·gle /ˌʌn'tæŋgəl/ *v* [T] to remove TANGLES from; make smooth and free from twisted parts: *Can you untangle these wires?* | (fig.) *I'll never untangle all these complicated tax debts.*

un·tapped /ˌʌn'tæpt◂/ *adj* (of something useful or valuable) not yet put to use: *There are still vast untapped reserves of oil under the sea.*

un·ten·a·ble /ʌn'tenəbəl/ *adj* (of a position, esp. in an argument) impossible to defend or show to be reasonable: *The Prime Minister is now in a completely untenable position, and must resign.* | *an untenable proposition*

un·thin·ka·ble /ʌn'θɪŋkəbəl/ *adj* not acceptable; too bad to think about or regard as possible: *It's quite unthinkable that he should be expected to pay the whole cost himself.* | *Defeat is unthinkable.*

un·think·ing /ʌn'θɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* careless; done or said without considering the effect; THOUGHTLESS: *an unthinking remark* —**~ly** *adv*

un·ti·dy /ʌn'taɪdi/ *adj* not neat; MESSY: *an untidy room/house*

un·tie /ʌn'taɪ/ *v* [T] to undo (a knot or something tied): *Untie the string.* | *Untie me from the chair.*

un·til /ʌn'tɪl, ən-/ also **till**— *prep, conj* **1** up to (the time that): *I waited until 10 o'clock, but he still didn't come.* | *Wait until I call.* | *We won't start until Bob comes.* | *He stayed from Monday till Friday.* | *The problem has never really arisen until now.* | *Until when do the pubs stay open?* | (*infml*) *He was here* **up until** *last week.* **2** as far as; up to (a place): *Stay on the train until Birmingham.* —see TO[1] (USAGE)

un·time·ly /ʌnˈtaɪmli/ *adj fml* **1** happening too soon; PREMATURE: *her untimely death* **2** not suitable for the occasion; INOPPORTUNE: *an untimely remark* —**-liness** *n* [U]

un·tir·ing /ʌnˈtaɪərɪŋ/ *adj apprec* never stopping or showing tiredness, esp. in spite of hard work: *an untiring worker | her untiring efforts* —~**ly** *adv*

un·to /ˈʌntuː/ *prep old use or bibl* to: *She spoke unto him.*

un·told /ˌʌnˈtəʊld◂/ *adj* **1** too great to be counted or measured; limitless: *untold wealth | She has done untold damage to our chances.* **2** not told or expressed: *Her story remains untold.*

un·tou·cha·ble /ʌnˈtʌtʃəbəl/ *adj, n* [*no comp.*] (a person) of the lowest social group, esp. in the Hindu CASTE system

un·to·ward /ˌʌntəˈwɔːd‖ˌʌnˈtɔːrd/ *adj fml* unexpected and undesirable: *We completed our journey without anything untoward happening.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

un·tram·melled *BrE* ‖ **-meled** *AmE* /ʌnˈtræməld/ *adj fml* allowed to act or develop with complete freedom

un·true /ʌnˈtruː/ *adj* false; not true

un·truth /ʌnˈtruːθ, ˈʌntruːθ/ *n fml euph* a lie

un·used /ˌʌnˈjuːzd◂/ *adj* **1** not in use or having been used: *unused space* **2 unused to** /ʌnˈjuːst tʊ/ having little or no experience of (something): *I'm unused to the heavy London traffic.* [+*v-ing*] *I'm unused to having so much responsibility.*

un·u·su·al /ʌnˈjuːʒuəl, -ʒəl/ *adj* **1** rare; not common: *Heavy rain is unusual in this part of the world. | It's unusual to see him up so early in the morning.* **2** interesting because different from others; DISTINCTIVE: *I like that painting; it's most unusual.*

un·u·su·al·ly /ʌnˈjuːʒuəli, -ʒəli/ *adv* **1** very; more than is usual: *It's unusually hot today.* **2** in an unusual way

un·ut·te·ra·ble /ʌnˈʌtərəbəl/ *adj* [A] *fml or pomp* of the greatest or worst kind; terrible: *in unutterable pain | an unutterable fool* —**-bly** *adv*

un·var·nished /ʌnˈvɑːnɪʃt‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* [A] plain; without additional description: *Just give me the plain unvarnished truth.*

un·veil /ˌʌnˈveɪl/ *v* [T] to remove a covering from: *The queen today unveiled a plaque to open the new hospital.* | (fig.) *The car company will be unveiling its latest models* (=showing them publicly for the first time) *at a press conference tomorrow.*

un·versed /ˌʌnˈvɜːst‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* [F+**in**] *fml or lit* not experienced or informed: *unversed in the ways of city life|in the world of business*

un·voiced /ˌʌnˈvɔɪst◂/ *adj* not expressed in words: *unvoiced fears*

un·waged /ˌʌnˈweɪdʒd◂/ *adj euph, esp. BrE* having no job; unemployed: [also *n, the*+P] *reduced rates for the unwaged*

un·war·rant·ed /ʌnˈwɒrəntɨd‖-ˈwɔː-, -ˈwɑː-/ also **un·war·rant·a·ble** /ʌnˈwɒrəntəbəl‖-ˈwɔː-, -ˈwɑː-/ *adj fml* unwelcome and done without good reason: *an unwarranted intrusion into our private affairs*

un·well /ʌnˈwel/ *adj* [F] ill, esp. for a short time

un·wiel·dy /ʌnˈwiːldi/ *adj* **1** awkward to move or handle because it is large, heavy, a strange shape, etc.: *an unwieldy piece of furniture* **2** difficult to use, manage, or control: *an unwieldy argument|method | a large unwieldy bureaucracy* —**-diness** *n* [U]

un·will·ing /ʌnˈwɪlɪŋ/ *adj* not wanting to do something, or doing something without really wanting to; RELUCTANT: *an unwilling helper* (=who helped, but without eagerness) | *an unwilling student* [F+*to-v*] *I'm unwilling to lend him any more money after what happened last time.* —~**ly** *adv* : *He unwillingly gave his consent.*

un·wind /ʌnˈwaɪnd/ *v* **-wound** /ʌnˈwaʊnd/ **1** [I;T] to come undone or undo (something that has been wound round): *She unwound the wool from the ball.* **2** [I] *infml* to stop being nervous; RELAX, esp. after a period of great effort and pressure: *She found it hard to unwind after a busy day at work.* —compare UNBEND

un·wit·ting /ʌnˈwɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *fml* not knowing or not intended: *She was their unwitting accomplice.* (=she did not know she was helping them) | *an unwitting insult* —~**ly** *adv*

un·wont·ed /ʌnˈwəʊntɨd/ *adj* [A] *fml* not usual or expected; UNACCUSTOMED: *He arrived with unwonted punctuality.*

un·world·ly /ʌnˈwɜːldli ‖ -ɜːr-/ *adj* not concerned with or experienced in the ways of society

un·writ·ten law /ˌʌnrɪtn ˈlɔː/ also **unwritten rule** — *n* a custom followed as a rule, though not formally or officially stated: *the unwritten law that women and children are saved first from a sinking ship*

un·zip /ˌʌnˈzɪp/ *v* **-pp-** [T] to open by undoing a ZIP (fastener): *She unzipped her dress.*

up[1] /ʌp/ *adv* **1** from below towards a higher position; away from the floor, the ground, or the bottom: *My pen fell on the floor and I picked it up. | Can you lift that box up onto the shelf for me? | The boy climbed up to a higher branch on the tree. | We swam a long way under water and then came up for air. | Hang the picture up on the wall. | It gets hot quickly when the sun comes up.* (=appears above the horizon) | *Up you come!* **2** at or in a higher position; above: *John's up in his bedroom. | The plane was flying 30,000 feet up. | We stayed in a little town up in the mountains.* **3** into an upright or raised position: *Everyone stood up when the teacher came in. | He turned up his collar to keep his neck dry. | They're putting up* (=building) *a new factory.* **4** in or towards the north: *He's flying up to Scotland from London. | They live up North.* —compare DOWN[1] (5) **5** along; towards (and as far as): *He came right up (to me) and asked my name. | He walked up to her. | Let's go up the road for something to eat.* **6** so as to increase in loudness, strength, level of activity, etc.: *Could you turn the radio up a bit, please. | Speak up! I can't hear you. | Competition between these companies is really hotting up.* **7** (so as to be) completely finished: *The money's all used up. | The party ended up with a song. | He won't eat up his vegetables. | He bought up all the flowers in the shop.* **8** so as to be all in small pieces: *I tore up the newspaper. | They divided up the money. | The plane hit the mountainside and broke up on impact.* **9** firmly; tightly; so as to be closed, covered, or joined: *She tied up the parcel. | He nailed up the door so they couldn't open it.* **10** so as to be together: *Please add up|count up these figures. | We collected up the fallen apples.* **11** (so as to be) on top: *I turned the board* **right side up.** **12** into consideration; so as to receive attention: *I'd like to bring up the question of the exam timetable. | The report has thrown up a number of unexpected problems.* **13** above and including: *Power was lost from the tenth floor up. | Children of 12 and up can enter without a guardian.* **14 up and down: a** higher and lower: *She was jumping up and down.* | (fig.) *"How's your father?" "Rather up and down, you know."* (=sometimes well, sometimes ill) **b** backwards and forwards: *I could hear him in his bedroom walking up and down.* —see also UPS AND DOWNS **15 up to: a** as far as; to and including: *Up to ten people* (=any number between one and ten) *can sleep in this tent. | Everyone has his part to play, from the office boy up to the President.* | (fig.) *He's* **up to his ears|eyes|neck** (=very deeply) *in debt.* **b** also **up till**— until: *He was here up to a moment ago.* **c** (*usu. in questions or negatives*) good, well, or clever enough for: *Michael's not really up to that job.* [+*v-ing*] *My German isn't up to translating that letter. | Do you feel up to going out, or have you still got a headache?* **d** the duty or responsibility of (someone): *"Shall we go out?"* **"It's up to you."** (=You must decide.) **e** *infml* doing (something bad): *The children are very quiet; I wonder what they're up to|getting up to!* **16 Up (with)**... *infml* We want or approve of: *Up the workers!* —compare DOWN (21)

up[2] *prep* **1** to or in a higher place in; upwards by way of: *He climbed up the hill|the stairs|the ladder. | The water got up my nose.* **2** to or at the top or far end of: *Her office is up those stairs. | They live just up the road.* (=further along the road from here) **3** against the direction of the current of: *sailing up the Seine* **4** *BrE nonstandard* to; up to; at: *I'm going up the West End tonight. | He's up the pub.* **5 up and down: a** higher and lower on: *I was up and down the stairs all day answering the door.* **b** backwards and forwards along: *His eyes moved up and down the rows of people, looking for his son's face.* **6 Up yours!** *taboo sl* (used for expressing great dislike for or annoyance at a person)

up[3] *adj* [*no comp.*] **1** [A] directed or going up: *We caught the up train.* (=to London, etc.; compare *the down train*) | *the up escalator* **2** [F] (of a road) being repaired; with a broken surface: *"Road Up"* (on a sign) **3** [F] (of a computer system) in operation; working —opposite **down**

4 [F] being at a higher level, e.g. in price, level or quantity; from a smaller to a larger amount: *The price of stamps has gone up* (=increased) *again.* | *Inflation is up by 2%.* | *Profits are up on* (=compared with) *last year.* **5** out of bed: *He got up very late.* | *We stayed up until midnight.* | *Are you up yet?* **6** [F *usu. in questions and negatives*] (in tennis and similar games) (of a ball) having hit the ground only once before being hit back **7** [F] *infml* charged with an offence; in court: *He's up before the judge for stealing.* —see also HAVE **up** **8 be (well) up in/on** *infml* to know a lot about **9 up against** having to face or deal with: *We've come up against a problem.* | *We're really* **up against it** (=in serious difficulty) *now.* **10 up and about** *infml* out of bed (again) and able to walk —compare **out and about** (OUT[1]) **11 up for a** intended or being considered for: *The house is up for sale.* | *This subject will be up for discussion at the next meeting.* **b** able and willing to do or experience; in the MOOD for: *Are you up for a game of cards?* | *I don't think I'm up for his jokes tonight.* **12 What's up?** *infml* (of something bad or unwelcome) What's happening? What's the matter?: *What's up? Why are they crying?* | *I knew something was up when I saw the smoke.*

up[4] *v* **-pp-** *infml* **1** [T] to raise; increase: *They've upped their offer by a further 5%.* **2** [I] (used followed by **and** for adding force to the account of a surprising action): *Without saying another word, he upped and left.*

up- see WORD FORMATION

up-and-com·ing /ˌ· · ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] *apprec* showing signs of likely future success or popularity: *an up-and-coming young opera singer* | *an up-and-coming neighbourhood* —compare UPCOMING

up-and-un·der /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* (in RUGBY) a high kick forwards followed by a rush to the place where the ball lands

up-and-up /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **on the up-and-up** *infml* **a** *BrE* improving; succeeding **b** *AmE* honest

U·pan·ish·ad /uːˈpʌnɪʃəd, -ʃæd ‖ uːˈpɑːnɪʃɑːd/ any of a collection of holy books which form the base of Hindu religion and PHILOSOPHY, together called the **Upanishads**

up·beat /ˈʌpbiːt/ *adj infml* cheerful and full of hope: *The film had a very upbeat ending.* —compare DOWNBEAT

up·braid /ˌʌpˈbreɪd/ *v* [T (**with**)] *fml* to speak angrily to (someone) because they have done something wrong

up·bring·ing /ˈʌpˌbrɪŋɪŋ/ *n* [S] the care, training, and education that someone receives, esp. from their parents, when they are growing up: *a strict upbringing* | *The children had an easy-going upbringing.* —see also BRING **up**

up·chuck /ˈʌptʃʌk/ *v* [T;I] *AmE infml for* VOMIT

up·com·ing /ˈʌpˌkʌmɪŋ/ *adj* [A] about to happen: *the upcoming elections* —compare UP-AND-COMING

up-coun·try /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj, adv* **1** in or from the inner parts of a country, away from the coast **2** from an area with few people, towns, etc., and without the manners and qualities that are thought typical of city people

up·date /ˌʌpˈdeɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make more modern or up-to-date: *an updated model of this popular car* **2** [(**on**)] to supply with the latest information: *The minister's advisers updated her on the situation.* —**update** /ˈʌpdeɪt/ *n* : *a computer file update*

Up·dike /ˈʌpdaɪk/, **John** (1932–) an American writer noted for his NOVELS about the worries and misfortunes of modern middle-class life, such as *Rabbit, Run, Couples,* and *Rabbit is Rich*

up·end /ʌpˈend/ *v* [T] **1** to cause to stand on end or on any part that does not usually stand on the floor **2** *infml* to knock down: *He upended his opponent with a single punch.*

up·front /ˌʌpˈfrʌnt/ *adj* [F] very direct and making no attempt to hide one's meaning: *He's very upfront about his political views.* —see also **up front** (FRONT[1])

up·grade /ˌʌpˈgreɪd/ *v* **1** [T] to give a position of more importance to (an employed person or a job): *He's hoping to be upgraded/to get his job upgraded.* **2** [I;T] to improve (something), esp. in quality or effectiveness: *You can upgrade your 32K computer to 64K simply by adding an expansion chip.* | *The course centre is in the process of upgrading its facilities.* | *At weekends standard-class passengers can pay an extra £3 and upgrade to first-class seats.* —opposite **downgrade**

up·heav·al /ʌpˈhiːvəl/ *n* [C;U] (a) great change, esp. with much activity, confusion, and sometimes violence: *What an upheaval it was when we had to change offices/move house.* | *a major political upheaval*

up·hill /ˌʌpˈhɪl◂/ *adj, adv* **1** (sloping or going) towards the top of a hill: *walking uphill* | *an uphill climb* [after *n*] *the road uphill* **2** needing much effort; ARDUOUS: *It's an uphill struggle/task teaching them mathematics.*

up·hold /ˌʌpˈhəʊld/ *v* **-held** /ˌʌpˈheld/ [T] **1** to defend (esp. a right or principle) against attack; prevent from being weakened or taken away: *It's up to the government to uphold the rights of individual citizens.* **2** to declare to be right; CONFIRM: *The judge upheld the lower court's decision.* —**~er** *n*

up·hol·ster /ʌpˈhəʊlstəʳ/ *v* [T] to provide (furniture) with comfortable coverings and fillings —**~er** *n*

up·hol·ster·y /ʌpˈhəʊlstəri/ *n* [U] **1** material that makes a comfortable covering and filling for furniture **2** the trade of an upholsterer

UPI /ˌjuː piː ˈaɪ/ United Press International; a company that gathers news stories from around the world and sells them to newspapers and other MEDIA

up·keep /ˈʌpkiːp/ *n* [U (**of**)] (the cost of) keeping something in good condition and working order: *The upkeep of this car/house is terribly expensive.*

up·land /ˈʌplənd/ also **uplands** *pl.*— *n* [U] the higher land in an area: *broad sunlit uplands* | *the upland areas of the country* | *an upland species of bird*

up·lift[1] /ˌʌpˈlɪft/ *v* [T] **1** to encourage cheerful or spiritual feelings in: *uplifting words* **2** *fml or lit* to raise high: *Let your voices be uplifted in song.*

up·lift[2] /ˈʌplɪft/ *n* [U] **1** upward support: *This new bra gives you plenty of uplift.* **2** (something which gives) a sense of joy or moral improvement

up·light·er /ˈʌplaɪtəʳ/ *n* a light placed at a low level to direct light upwards —compare DOWNLIGHTER

up-mar·ket /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ ‖ also **upscale** *AmE*— *adj* being or using goods produced to meet the demand of the higher social groups: *an up-market area of town* | *the up-market model of the car, with a larger engine* —compare DOWN-MARKET

up·on /əˈpɒn‖əˈpɑːn/ *prep fml* on: *They sat upon the ground.* | *travelling upon foot* | *We acted upon your advice.* —see also ON[1] (1,2,3,4,6,7,13), **once upon a time** (ONCE[1] (8)), **upon my word** (WORD[1] (17))

up·per[1] /ˈʌpəʳ/ *adj* [A] **1** in a higher position (than something lower): *the upper arm* | *Passengers may smoke only on the upper deck of the bus.* | *a job in the upper echelons* (=of very high rank) *of the Civil Service* **2** farther from the sea: *the upper reaches* (=areas) *of the Nile* —opposite **lower**

upper[2] *n* **1** the top part of a shoe above the HEEL and SOLE **2** (*often pl.*) *sl* any illegal drug which produces a feeling of energy or happiness, esp. an AMPHETAMINE —compare DOWNER **3 on one's uppers** *BrE old-fash infml* extremely poor

upper case /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] letters written or printed in a large form (such as *A, B, C*) rather than in the usual small (LOWER CASE) form (such as *a, b, c*) —**upper case** *adj*

upper class /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ also **upper classes** *pl.*— *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] the highest social class; a small social class whose members often have noble titles (in Britain and some other European countries), own a great deal of land, and are usu. thought of as being very rich: *She's a typical product of the upper class/classes.* —**-upper-class** *adj sometimes derog* : *an upper-class accent* —compare LOWER CLASS, MIDDLE CLASS, WORKING CLASS; see WORKING CLASS (USAGE) and extra information on page 1258

up·per·class·man /ˈʌpəklɑːsmən‖-ərklæs-/ , **wom·an** /-wʊmən/ *fem n* **-men** /men/ *AmE* a student in the last two years of a school or college, i.e. a JUNIOR or SENIOR — compare UNDERCLASSMAN

upper crust /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj, n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] *infml, often humor* the upper class

up·per·cut /ˈʌpəkʌt‖-ər-/ *n* (in BOXING) a blow with the hand moving upward to the chin

upper hand /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+S] a position of advantage; control: *After many hours fighting we began to* **gain/get the upper hand.** (=started to win the fight)

Upper House /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Upper Cham·ber** /ˌ·· ˈ··/– *n* [*the*] one of the two branches of a parliament, esp. the one that is grander but smaller, less representative, and less powerful: *The House of Lords is the British Upper House.*

upper mid·dle class /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [S + *sing./pl. v*] a social class that is considered to be higher than the middle class but not as high as the upper class, and which in Britain is thought to include professional people such as SURGEONS, university teachers, company directors, and important CIVIL SERVANTS —**-upper middle-class** *adj*

up·per·most /ˈʌpəməʊst‖-pər-/ also **up·most** /ˈʌpməʊst/– *adj, adv* in the highest or strongest position: *the question that is/comes uppermost in our minds* (=that we think of most)

upper school /ˈ·· ·/ *n* (in Britain) the classes of a SECONDARY SCHOOL or a PUBLIC SCHOOL which contain older, esp. 14 to 18-year-old, pupils. An upper school usu. includes the SIXTH FORM: *Tuesday is the upper school's sports afternoon.*

upper sixth /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C+*sing/pl. v*] (*sometimes cap*) the second and final year of the SIXTH FORM in British schools —compare LOWER SIXTH

Upper Vol·ta /ˌʌpə ˈvɒltə‖ˌʌpər ˈvəʊltə/ a former name for BURKINA FASO

up·pi·ty /ˈʌpɨti/ also **up·pish** /ˈʌpɪʃ/– *adj infml derog* behaving as if one were better than other people or more important than one really is

up·right[1] /ˈʌp-raɪt/ *adj apprec* **1** (sitting or standing) straight up, esp. habitually: *a tall upright old man | She sat* **bolt upright.** (=very straight) **2** honest, fair, responsible, etc.: *an upright citizen* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

upright[2] *adv* straight up; not bent

upright[3] *n* a supporting beam which stands straight up

upright pi·an·o /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ also **upright**– *n* a piano with strings set in an up-and-down direction —compare GRAND PIANO

up·ris·ing /ˈʌpˌraɪzɪŋ/ *n* an act of the ordinary people suddenly and violently opposing those in power; REBELLION: *The rebel leaders seized power in an armed uprising.*

up·roar /ˈʌp-rɔːr/ *n* [S;U] confused noisy activity, esp. with shouting and angry words: *There was uproar in Parliament when the minister made his controversial statement. | The whole place was in an uproar (over his statement).*

up·roar·i·ous /ʌpˈrɔːriəs/ *adj* **1** very noisy, esp. with laughter **2** very amusing; causing loud laughter: *an uproarious joke* —**~ly** *adv*

up·root /ˌʌpˈruːt/ *v* [T] **1** to tear (a plant with its roots) out of the earth **2** to remove from one's home, habitual surroundings, etc.: *To take the new job she had to uproot her whole family and settle abroad.*

UPS /ˌjuː piː ˈes/ United Parcel Service; an American company that delivers boxes and packed goods: *I think I'll ship it UPS. | Will UPS take a box that big?*

ups-a-dai·sy /ˈʌps ə ˌdeɪzi/ *interj* OOPS-A-DAISY

ups and downs /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [P] *infml* good and bad periods following one another in turn: *Life is full of ups and downs.*

up·scale /ˌʌpˈskeɪl/ *adj, adv AmE* for UP-MARKET

up·set[1] /ʌpˈset/ *v* **-set**, *present participle* **-setting** [T] **1** to cause to fall over, turn over, or overflow, usu. accidentally, causing damage, loss, etc.: *He upset the cup and the coffee went all over the floor.* **2** to put (something) out of its settled state or order, causing confusion: *Our plans were upset by the sudden change in the weather. | If they develop these new weapons, it will upset the balance of power.* **3** to cause to worry, be sad, be angry, not be calm, etc.; DISTRESS: *Do what he wants, or you'll upset him. | This is very upsetting news. | She's most upset* (=sad and disappointed) *that you can't come.* **4** to make ill, usu. in the stomach: *Eating fish sometimes upsets me/my stomach.* —see also **upset the apple cart** (APPLE CART)

up·set[2] /ˈʌpset/ *n* **1** [C;U] an act of upsetting or state of being upset: *a complete upset of our plans* **2** [C] a slight illness, usu. of the stomach: *a stomach upset* **3** [C] an unexpected result: *It was a major upset when our local team beat the big league side.*

upset price /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* for RESERVE[2] (6)

up·shot /ˈʌpʃɒt‖ˈʌpʃɑːt/ *n* [(*the*) S (**of**)] the result in the end; OUTCOME: *What was the upshot of all that talk?*

up·side /ˈʌpsaɪd/ *adj* (esp. in business) showing an expectation or likelihood of advantage or success —opposite **downside** —**upside** *n* [S]

up·side down /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *adv* **1** in a position with the top turned to the bottom: *You've got that picture upside down.* **2** in disorder: *The office is being decorated so everything's upside down.* —see also **turn somewhere upside down** (TURN[1] (16))

up·stage[1] /ˌʌpˈsteɪdʒ◂/ *adj, adv* towards or at the back of a theatrical stage: *The actress moved upstage.* —opposite **downstage**

up·stage[2] /ʌpˈsteɪdʒ/ *v* [T] to take attention away from (someone else, esp. someone more important) for oneself: *The star of the show was upstaged by a brilliant young comedian.*

up·stairs /ˌʌpˈsteəz◂‖-ˈsteərz◂/ *adv* on or to the upper floor(s) of a building: *He ran upstairs. | My room is upstairs.* —compare DOWNSTAIRS; see also **kick upstairs** (KICK) —**upstairs** *adj* [A]: *an upstairs lavatory* —**upstairs** *n* [(*the*) S] : *The upstairs of this house is all new.*

Upstairs, Down·stairs /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a British television SERIES of the 1970s about a wealthy family who live in their London home with their servants during the early 1900s

up·stand·ing /ˌʌpˈstændɪŋ/ *adj fml apprec* **1** honest and responsible: *a sober upstanding citizen* **2** (of a person) tall and strong: *a fine upstanding man*

up·start /ˈʌpstɑːt‖-ɑːrt/ *n derog* someone who has risen suddenly or unexpectedly to a high position and takes advantage of the power they have gained: *She was beaten to the top job by an upstart who joined the firm barely a year ago.*

up·state /ˌʌpˈsteɪt◂/ *n AmE* the northern part of a state, esp. when most of the population lives in the south: *upstate New York*

up·stream /ˌʌpˈstriːm◂/ *adj, adv* (moving) against the current, towards the beginning of a river, stream, etc. —opposite **downstream**

up·surge /ˈʌpsɜːdʒ‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **1** [(**in**)] a sudden rise: *the recent upsurge in the number of people buying video recorders* **2** [(**of**)] a sudden appearance of strong feeling: *an upsurge of joy*

up·swing /ˈʌpˌswɪŋ/ *n* [(**in**)] an improvement or increase in an amount or level: *an upswing in the President's popularity rating*

up·take /ˈʌpteɪk/ *n* **1** [*the*+S] *infml* ability to understand esp. something new: *I tried to explain it to him, but he's rather* **slow on the uptake.** **2** [C;U (**of**)] *esp. tech* the rate at which something is accepted, taken in, etc.: *the uptake of food and oxygen into an organism*

up·tight /ˈʌptaɪt, ʌpˈtaɪt/ *adj sl* tending to be angry and unfriendly because worried, nervous, etc.

up-to-date /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** modern; based on or using the most recent knowledge, ideas, inventions, etc.: *This factory uses the most up-to-date methods.* **2** including or having all the latest information: *an up-to-date map | Bring me up-to-date on all the latest news.* (=tell me about it)

up-to-the-min·ute /ˌ· · · ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** very modern **2** including all the latest information

up·town /ˌʌpˈtaʊn◂/ *adj, adv AmE* to, towards, or in the higher or northern areas of a city or town; often where people live, not the business centre: *We went uptown. | uptown schools* —compare DOWNTOWN

up·turn /ˈʌptɜːn‖-ɜːrn/ *n* [(**in**)] a favourable change, esp. an increase: *an upturn in business activity|in house prices* —opposite **downturn**

up·turned /ˌʌpˈtɜːnd◂‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** turning upwards at the end: *an upturned nose* **2** having been turned upside down: *The crowd set fire to an upturned car.*

up·ward /ˈʌpwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* [A] going up: *an upward movement of prices|of the hand* —opposite **downward**

upwardly-mo·bile /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *adj* able or wishing to move into a higher social class and become more wealthy

up·wards /ˈʌpwədz‖-wərdz/ ‖ also **upward** *AmE*– *adv* **1** towards a higher level, position, or price: *He looked upwards at the sky. | Costs are moving upwards. | She lay on the bed, face upwards.* (=with her face pointing upwards) —opposite **downwards** **2 upward(s) of** *infml* more than: *It cost upwards of £50.*

up·wind /ˌʌpˈwɪnd/ *adj, adv* in the direction from which the wind is blowing

Ur /ɜːr/ also **Ur of the Chal·dees** /ˌɜːr əv ðə kælˈdiːz‖ -kɔːl-/ an ancient city in what is now modern Iraq, which existed from about 3500 BC to around the sixth century BC

U·rals /ˈjʊərəlz/ also **Ural Moun·tains** /ˌ·· ˈ··/– [*the* + P] a mountain system stretching across the W of Russia from the Kara Sea in the N to the STEPPES N of the Aral Sea. The Urals are often considered to mark the border between Europe and Asia.

u·ra·ni·um /jʊˈreɪniəm/ *n* [U] a heavy white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is RADIOACTIVE, and is used in the production of NUCLEAR power and weapons

U·ra·nus /ˈjʊərənəs, jʊˈreɪnəs/ **1** the PLANET seventh in order from the sun –see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM **2** in ancient Greek stories, the heaven and first ruler of the universe

ur·ban /ˈɜːbən‖ˈɜːr-/ *adj* [A] of a town or city: *urban life | urban areas*

Urban De·vel·op·ment Cor·po·ra·tion /ˌ·· ·ˈ··· ··ˌ··/ *n* (in Britain) an organization set up by the government to work in INNER CITIES, planning new uses for DERELICT land, e.g. for housing, offices, or sports grounds. The first two Urban Development Corporations began in 1981, in London's Docklands and around Liverpool.

ur·bane /ɜːˈbeɪn‖ɜːr-/ *adj usu. apprec* having a smooth and confident social manner –~**ly** *adv* –-**banity** /ɜːˈbænɨti‖ɜːr-/ *n* [U]

urban guer·ril·la /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* a terrorist who operates mainly in towns and cities: *a bomb attack carried out by urban guerrillas*

urban myth /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* an often-repeated story, usu. taken to be true, of an unusual and sometimes terrible event that happens to an ordinary person

Urban Pro·gramme /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a British government programme to improve inner cities

urban re·new·al /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] the redevelopment of decayed city areas by building new houses, shops, business areas, etc.: *a Federal urban renewal program*

ur·chin /ˈɜːtʃɨn‖ˈɜːr-/ *n old-fash or humor* a small dirty untidy child, esp. a boy –see also SEA URCHIN

Ur·du /ˈʊəduː, ˈɜːduː‖ˈʊər-/ *n* [U] an official language of Pakistan which is also widely used in India, esp. by Muslims. Urdu is related to Hindi and is usu. written in Persian SCRIPT.

u·re·thra /jʊəˈriːθrə/ *n med* the tube which carries waste liquid from the BLADDER, and in male animals also carries SEMEN

urge[1] /ɜːdʒ‖ɜːrdʒ/ *v* [T] **1** [+*obj*+*to-v*] to try very hard to persuade: *They urged us to give our support.* **2** [(**on**)] to suggest very strongly; draw attention to the importance of or need for: *The speaker urged immediate action against the illegal regime. | They urged on us the need for cooperation.* **3** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to drive or force (forward): *He urged the horses on with a whip. | The captain urged his team to greater efforts.*

urge[2] *n* a strong wish or need: *powerful sexual urges* [+*to-v*] *I had a sudden urge to tell the boss what I thought of him.*

ur·gent /ˈɜːdʒənt‖ˈɜːr-/ *adj* **1** very important and needing to be dealt with quickly or first: *It's not urgent; it can wait until tomorrow. | a very urgent message | in urgent need of medical attention* **2** *fml* showing that something must be done or dealt with quickly; PERSISTENT: *He was urgent in his demands.* –~**ly** *adv* –-**gency** *n* [U]: *a matter of great urgency*

U·ri·ah Heep /juːˌraɪə ˈhiːp/ **1** a rock band of the 1970s **2** see **Uriah** HEEP

u·ric /ˈjʊərɪk/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or found in urine: *uric acid*

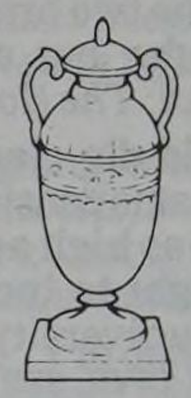
u·ri·nal /ˈjʊərɨnəl, jʊˈraɪ-‖ˈjʊərɨ-/ *n* **1** an apparatus fitted to a wall into which men may urinate **2** a building containing urinals

u·ri·na·ry /ˈjʊərɨnəri‖-neri/ *adj* of or being the organs and passages of the body used for collecting and passing out urine: *the urinary tract*

u·ri·nate /ˈjʊərɨneɪt/ *v* [I] to pass urine from the body –-**nation** /ˌjʊərɨˈneɪʃən/ *n* [U]

u·rine /ˈjʊərɨn/ *n* [U] liquid waste passed from the body

urn /ɜːn‖ɜːrn/ *n* **1** a large often decorative container (VASE), esp. one in which the ashes of a burnt dead body are kept **2** a large metal container in which large quantities of tea or coffee may be heated and kept



urn

Ur·sa Ma·jor /ˌɜːsə ˈmeɪdʒəʳ‖ ˌɜːr-/ also **Great Bear**– a group of stars, the PLOUGH

Ursa Mi·nor /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Little Bear**‖**Little Dipper** *AmE*– a group of bright stars (CONSTELLATION), which includes the POLE STAR

U·ru·guay /ˈjʊərəgwaɪ/ a country in SE South America; capital Montevideo; population 3,077,000 (1989) – **Uruguayan** /ˌjʊərəˈgwaɪən◂/ *n, adj*

us /əs, s; *strong* ʌs/ *pron* **1** (*object form of* **we**): *Did he see us? | She bought us a drink. | That house is too small for us.* **2** *BrE nonstandard* (*used esp. as an* INDIRECT OBJECT) me: *"Lend us a pound, mister", he said.* –see ME (USAGE)

US /ˌjuː ˈes◂/ *abbrev. for:* **1** also **USA** /ˌjuː es ˈeɪ/– the United States (of America) **2** of the United States: *the US navy*

us·age /ˈjuːzɪdʒ, ˈjuːsɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) generally accepted way of using a language: *"Do you have?" is a common American usage; British speakers would be more likely to say "Have you got?" | a book on modern English usage* **2** [U] the way of using or treating something: *a radio designed for rough usage* **3** [U (**of**)] USE[2] (1)

USA To·day /ˌ· · · ·ˈ·/ *n* an American newspaper that is sold in every state –see also extra information on page 896

USDA /ˌjuː es diː ˈeɪ/ United States Department of Agriculture; the American government organization which helps farmers and makes sure they follow the laws concerning food production

use[1] /juːz/ *v* **used** /juːzd/ [T] **1** to employ for a purpose; put into action or service: *During the war the castle was used as a prison/used for keeping prisoners in. | The company uses a computer to do its accounts. | We used the money to buy a new car. | The crowd refused to move, so the police had to use tear gas. | I use the buses a lot. | What sort of film does this camera use? | (infml) I think he's using* (=taking) *drugs. | (infml)* **I could use** (=I would like) *a cold drink!* **2** to finish; CONSUME: *All the paper has been used. | The car's using too much petrol.* –see also USE **up** **3** to take unfair advantage of (someone); EXPLOIT: *He's just using you for his own ends.* **4** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *fml* to treat in the stated manner: *He considered that he had been ill* (=badly) *used.* –**usable** *adj*

use sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to finish completely: *Try not to use up all the flour.*

use[2] /juːs/ *n* **1** [S;U (**of**)] the act or way of using or fact of being used: *a wasteful use of valuable resources | The use of water is being restricted during the drought. | the increasing use of computers in education | She* **put** *her knowledge of German* **to good use**. (=used it in a profitable way) **2** [U (**of**)] the ability or right to use something: *I gave him the use of my car while I was away. | He lost the use of both his legs in the accident.* **3** [C;U] the purpose or reason for using something: *What use does this tool have/serve? | a machine with many uses* **4** [U] the usefulness or advantage given by something: *Is this book any use?* (=is it useful/good) *| I think you'll find this book* **of use** (=useful) *(to you). | What's the use of worrying? | It's no use (your) complaining; they won't do anything about it.* **5 have no use for** to think that (esp. someone) is of no value; dislike: *She has no use for modern art – she prefers Renaissance painting.* **6 in use** being used **7 make use of** to use; take advantage of: *He made good use of his time there by learning the language.* **8 out of use** no longer used: *That expression has gone out of use.*

use[3] /juːs/ *v* **used** /juːst/*negative short form* **usedn't, usen't** /ˈjuːsənt/ *old-fash BrE* [I+*to-v*] (used in the past tense for showing that something always or regularly happened): *I used to go to the cinema a lot, but I never get the time now.| He didn't use to/used not to like fish (but now he does).| It used to be thought that the Earth was flat. | She doesn't work here now, but she used to. | Didn't she use to live in Coventry? | I'm surprised to see you smoking; you didn't use to/you used not to. | (fml) Used there to be a hotel*

on that corner? | *(old-fash BrE) I use(d)n't to like wine, but I'm quite fond of it now.*

▷USAGE 1 **Used to** and **would** are both used of habits or states that existed in the past, but no longer exist. But **would** is not used at the beginning of a story: *We* **used to** *swim every day when we were children – we* **would** *run down to the lake and jump in.* 2 **Used to** has various negative forms. Some people think that *He* **used not to** is better than *He* **didn't used/use to,** but all are possible. *He* **never used to** expresses the same idea. The best question form is probably **Did/Didn't** *he* **use/used to?** but **Used/Usedn't** *he* **to?/Used** *he* **not to?** also exist.◁

use-by date /ˈjuːz baɪ ˌdeɪt/ *n* a date marked on a product, esp. on food, to show the day or month before which the product should be used so that it will be fresh: *This cooked meat is past its use-by date.* –compare SELL-BY DATE

used /juːzd/ *adj* **1** (usu. of goods) which has already had an owner; SECOND-HAND: *used cars* **2 used to** /ˈjuːst tə, -tʊ/ in the habit of; ACCUSTOMED to: *I'm used to the noise.* | *I'm not used to spicy food.* [+*v-ing*] *I never* **got used to** *going to bed so late.* –see also USE[3]

use·ful /ˈjuːsfəl/ *adj* **1** effective in use; bringing help or advantage: *a useful idea/tool/piece of advice* | *The minister said that an inquiry would serve no useful purpose.* [+*to-v*] *She's a useful person to know.* **2** *BrE infml* satisfactory: *The England cricket team scored quite a useful total.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]: *This old radio has* **outlived its usefulness.** (=is no longer useful, no longer works well, etc.)

useful life /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n humor* the period of time which a machine operates well: *I think this photocopier is reaching the end of its useful life.*

use·less /ˈjuːsləs/ *adj* **1** not of any use; bringing no help or advantage: *a few useless suggestions* | *It's useless to complain* | *It's useless complaining.* (=Complaining is useless.) **2** *esp. BrE infml derog* not able to do anything properly; INCOMPETENT: *You're useless! You've done it wrong again!* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

us·er /ˈjuːzəʳ/ *n* a person or thing that uses: *The factory is one of the biggest users of oil in the country.* | *road users* –see also END USER

user-friend·ly /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* (esp. of a computer system) easy to operate or understand; not needing special training: *a user-friendly computer/textbook*

user in·ter·face /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* the part of a computer programme or SOFTWARE package that contains the commands and functions available to the person using the computer

US Ge·o·lo·gi·cal Sur·vey /ˌ· · ··ˌ··· ˈ··/ a branch of the Department of the Interior that finds minerals and makes detailed maps of the US –compare ORDNANCE SURVEY

ush·er[1] /ˈʌʃəʳ/ *n* **1** someone who shows people to their seats, on an important occasion, for example in church at weddings **2** *BrE* someone who keeps order in a law court **3** someone who shows people to their seats in a theatre or cinema

usher[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. IN] *fml* to bring, esp. by showing the way: *She ushered the visitor into the room.* | *I ushered him to a seat.* | (fig.) *The bombing of Hiroshima ushered in the nuclear age.*

ush·er·ette /ˌʌʃəˈret/ *n esp. BrE* a woman or girl who works in a cinema, taking tickets, selling ice cream, and showing people to their seats in the dark

USIA /ˌjuː es aɪ ˈeɪ/ [*the*] United States Information Agency; a government department which sends representatives abroad to provide information about the United States

USM /ˌjuː es ˈem/ [*the*] Unlisted Securities Market; a part of the London Stock Exchange for smaller companies which cannot be listed officially with the Stock Exchange –compare OVER-THE-COUNTER (1)

US Mas·ters Tour·na·ment /ˌ· · ˈ·· ˌ···/ [*the*] MASTERS TOURNAMENT

USMC /ˌjuː es em ˈsiː/ [*the*] United States Marine Corps; see MARINE CORPS

USO /ˌjuː es ˈəʊ/ United Service Organization; an American organization that helps people in the armed forces, esp. when they are travelling or abroad: *The USO lounge at O'Hare Airport*

US O·pen /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] **1** an important GOLF competition, one of the MAJOR competitions –see also BRITISH OPEN, MASTERS TOURNAMENT **2** an important tennis competition

USS /ˌjuː es ˈes◂/ United States Ship; letters which go before the name of a ship to show that it belongs to the American government: *USS Arizona*

Us·sher, Usher /ˈʌʃəʳ/, **James** (1581–1656) an Irish Protestant BISHOP who attempted to put exact dates to events described in the Bible

USSR /ˌjuː es es ˈɑːʳ/ until 1991, the largest country in the world, bordering on the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, and the Baltic and Black Seas, and made up of 15 republics. The USSR was formed after the Russian Revolution in 1917 as a COMMUNIST state, under the leadership of Lenin. The country was for a long time one of the two SUPERPOWERS (the other being the USA), but it broke apart when most of its republics failed to support the president Mikhail Gorbachev. Eleven of the newly independent states grouped together to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), but some, such as Latvia, became completely independent states –see also COLD WAR, GLASNOST, PERESTROIKA, STALIN

Us·ti·nov /ˈjuːstɪnɒf‖-nɔːf/, **Sir Peter** (1921–) an English actor, PLAYWRIGHT, and film director, famous as a teller of amusing stories

usu. *written abbrev. for:* usually

u·su·al /ˈjuːʒuəl, ˈjuːʒəl/ *adj* **1** customary; in accordance with what happens or is done in most cases: *We will meet at the usual time.* | *This work isn't up to your usual standard.* | *His speech to the staff was the usual mixture of praise and threats.* | *Is it usual for him to be so late?* | (*infml*) *Will you have your usual, George?* (=the drink you usually have) **2 as usual** as is common or has happened before: *As usual, he arrived last.*

u·su·al·ly /ˈjuːʒuəli, ˈjuːʒəli/ *adv* in most cases; generally: *We're usually in bed by ten.* | *I'm not usually so late.* | *I'm not late, usually.* | *It's more than usually crowded today.*

u·sur·er /ˈjuːʒərəʳ/ *n fml derog* a person who lends money which must be paid back at an unfairly high rate of interest

u·su·ri·ous /juːˈzjʊəriəs‖juːˈʒʊər-/ *adj fml derog* (of a price or rate of interest) unreasonably high –~**ness** *n* [U]

u·surp /juːˈzɜːp‖-ɜːrp/ *v* [T] *fml* to take (power or position) for oneself illegally or without having the right to do so: *Henry IV usurped the throne of England.* | *The Vice-President is trying to usurp the President's authority.* –~**er** *n* –~**ation** /ˌjuːzɜːˈpeɪʃən‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U]

u·su·ry /ˈjuːʒəri/ *n* [U] *fml derog* the practice of lending money to be paid back at an unfairly high rate of interest

U·tah /ˈjuːtɑː‖-tɔː/ *written abbrev.* **UT** a state in the W of the US, whose capital, Salt Lake City, is a centre of the Mormon religion. Most of the people who live in Utah are Mormon. –see colour map on pages 1374–5

Ute /juːt/ *n* [C;*the*+P] (a member of) a Native American people living mainly in Colorado and Utah –see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

u·ten·sil /juːˈtensəl/ *n fml or tech* an object with a particular practical use, esp. a tool or container: *kitchen/cooking utensils*

u·te·rus /ˈjuːtərəs/ *n* **-ri** /raɪ/ *or* **-ruses** *med for* WOMB –**-rine** /-raɪn/ *adj*

U·ther Pen·drag·on /ˌjuːθə penˈdrægən‖-θər-/ in ARTHURIAN LEGEND, the king of the Britons and Arthur's father

u·til·i·tar·i·an /juːˌtɪlɪˈteəriən/ *adj* **1** *fml, sometimes derog* made to be useful rather than decorative: *utilitarian furniture* **2** believing in utilitarianism –compare MATERIALISTIC

u·til·i·tar·i·an·is·m /juːˌtɪlɪˈteəriənɪzəm/ *n* [U] a belief that the more people a course of action helps, the better it is

u·til·i·ty /juːˈtɪlɪti/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the degree of usefulness: *a research project with limited practical utility* **2** [C *often pl.*] a useful service for the public, such as supplies of water to the home, the bus service, etc.

utility pole /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a tall wooden pole for supporting telephone and electric wires, etc. –compare TELEGRAPH POLE

utility room /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a room, esp. in a private house, used for storage and for keeping large household equipment in, such as washing machines and FREEZERS

u·til·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈjuːtl̩laɪz/ *v* [T] *fml or pomp* to make (good) use of; use: *It is to be hoped that in her new job her talents will be better utilized than before.* —**-izable** *adj* —**-ization** /ˌjuːtl̩laɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [U]

ut·most[1] /ˈʌtməʊst/ also **ut·ter·most** /ˈʌtəməʊst‖-tər-/*esp. lit— adj* [A] *fml* of the greatest degree; very great: *With the utmost respect, I think you're wrong.* | *a matter of the utmost concern*

utmost[2] also **uttermost** *esp. lit— n* [(*the*) S] the most that can be done: *I* **did my utmost** *to prevent it.*

u·to·pi·a /juːˈtəʊpiə/ *n* [C;U] (*often cap.*) an imaginary perfect world where everyone is happy and no one suffers: *The story describes a social and ecological utopia.*

u·to·pi·an /juːˈtəʊpiən/ *adj often derog* of or based on ideas of esp. a perfect society which are not practical: *Some people seem to have a utopian view of the distant past.* — compare IDEALIST

ut·ter[1] /ˈʌtəʳ/ *adj* [A] (esp. of something bad) complete; ABSOLUTE: *It was an utter waste of time.* | *What utter rubbish he talks!* | *an utter moron*

utter[2] *v* [T] *esp. fml or lit* to make (a sound) or produce (words), sometimes with difficulty: *The wounded man uttered a groan.* | *She didn't utter a word all night.*

ut·ter·ance /ˈʌtərəns/ *n esp. fml or tech* **1** [U] the act of speaking: *She has not yet* **given utterance to** (=expressed) *her opinion.* **2** [C] something that is said: *Politicians have to be very careful in their public utterances.*

ut·ter·ly /ˈʌtəli‖-ər-/ *adv* completely: *You're utterly crazy!* | *He was utterly charmed by her*

U-turn /ˈjuː tɜːn‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **1** a turning movement in a car which takes one back in the direction one came from: *"No U-turns"* (on road sign) **2** *infml, usu. derog* a complete change, resulting in the opposite of what has gone before: *The government has done a U-turn on economic policy.*

UV /ˌjuː ˈviː/ ULTRAVIOLET; used esp. when discussing light which is harmful to the eyes or skin

UVF /ˌjuː viː ˈef/ [*the*] Ulster Volunteer Force; an illegal organization in Northern Ireland which uses violence against people who want Northern Ireland to leave the UK and become part of an Irish state

u·vu·la /ˈjuːvjʊ̯lə/ *n* **-las** *or* **-lae** /liː/ a small soft piece of flesh which hangs down from the top of the mouth at the back

u·vu·lar /ˈjuːvjʊ̯ləʳ/ *n, adj tech* (a consonant) produced with the back of the tongue touching or nearly touching the uvula

Uz·bek·i·stan /ˌʊzbekɪˈstɑːn ‖ ʊzˌbekɪˈstæn/ a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States in central Asia, formerly called the **Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic** when it was a member of the Soviet Union, and bordered by Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, the Aral Sea, Kirghizstan and Tadzhikistan; capital Tashkent; population 19,906,000 (1989) —**Uzbekistani** *n, adj*

V

V, v /viː/ **V's, v's** *or* **Vs, vs** **1** the 22nd letter of the English alphabet **2** the ROMAN NUMERAL (number) for 5

v *written abbrev. for:* **1** verb **2** *infml* very

V *n* a thing or part shaped like the letter V: *She cut the material out in a V.* —see also V-NECK, V-SIGN

v. *BrE* ‖ **vs.** *AmE— abbrev. for:* (esp. in sport or law) VERSUS (against): *a report on the England v. Australia cricket match | the Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade*

V-1 /ˌviː ˈwʌn/ also **doodlebug** *n* a flying bomb used by the Germans in World War II

V-2 /ˌviː ˈtuː/ *n* a flying weapon (a type of MISSILE) used by the Germans in World War II

V8 /ˌvˈeɪt/ *tdmk* a kind of drink made from the juices of eight different vegetables: *How about a glass of V8?*

V-8 /ˌviː ˈeɪt/ *n* (a vehicle with) an INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE with two rows of four CYLINDERS each, arranged at an angle to each other like a letter V

VA[1] *n written abbrev. for* VIRGINIA

VA[2] /ˌviː ˈeɪ/ *n abbrev. for* VETERANS AFFAIRS

vac /væk/ *n BrE infml* a university VACATION[1] (1b)

va·can·cy /ˈveɪkənsi/ *n* **1** [C] an unfilled place, such as a hotel room that is not being used: *"Vacancies"|"No Vacancies"* (sign on hotel) **2** [C] an unfilled job in a factory, office, etc.: *We still have vacancies for drivers but all the other positions have been filled.* **3** [U] *derog* emptiness of mind; lack of thought or interest

va·cant /ˈveɪkənt/ *adj* **1** (of a place or space, esp. one that is usually filled or is intended to be filled) empty; not filled with anything: *There's a vacant place over there where we can park. | a vacant house|room* (=not lived in) *| Is this seat vacant?* **2** (of a job) not at present filled: *The job was advertised in the "Situations Vacant" column in the newspaper.* **3** showing lack of interest or active or serious thought: *He stared into space with a vacant expression on his face.* —**~ly** *adv* : *He stared vacantly into space.*

vacant lot /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n esp. AmE* an unused piece of land, esp. in a city, with nothing built on it: *dealing drugs from a vacant lot | a vacant lot between apartment buildings*

vacant pos·ses·sion /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] *tech, BrE* ownership of a home or other building whose previous owner or TENANT has left, and which the new owner can move into immediately: *We will have vacant possession of the house.*

va·cate /vəˈkeɪt, veɪ-‖ˈveɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to stop using, having, or living in: *Guests must vacate their rooms by 11 o'clock. | He is expected to vacate his job soon.*

va·ca·tion[1] /vəˈkeɪʃən‖veɪ-/ *n* **1** [C] **a** *esp. AmE* a holiday: *They're in Florida* **on vacation.** —see HOLIDAY (USAGE) and see also extra information on page 630 **b** *esp. BrE* any of the periods of holiday when universities (or law courts) are closed —see also LONG VACATION **2** [U **(of)**] *fml* the act of vacating

vacation[2] *v* [I **(at, in)**] *esp. AmE* to have a holiday: *vacationing in Europe*

va·ca·tion·er /vəˈkeɪʃənəʳ‖veɪ-/ also **va·ca·tion·ist** /-ʃənɨst/— *n AmE for* HOLIDAYMAKER

vac·cin·ate /ˈvæksɨneɪt/ *v* [T **(against)**] to put vaccine into the body of (someone), as a protection against a disease —compare IMMUNIZE, INOCULATE —**-ation** /ˌvæksɨˈneɪʃən/ *n* [C;U **(against)**]

vac·cine /ˈvæksiːn‖vækˈsiːn/ *n* [C;U] a poisonous substance (containing a VIRUS) used for protecting people against diseases: *smallpox|polio vaccine* —compare SERUM (1)

vac·il·late /ˈvæsɨleɪt/ *v* [I **(between)**] *usu. derog* to be continually changing from one opinion or feeling to another; be uncertain of what action to take: *They vacillated for some while between the two courses of action.* —**-lation** /ˌvæsɨˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

va·cu·i·ty /vəˈkjuːɨti, væ-‖væ-/ *n* [U] *fml* stupidity; vacuousness

vac·u·ous /ˈvækjuəs/ *adj fml* **1** showing no sign of ideas, thought, or feeling: *a vacuous expression* **2** without purpose; meaningless; empty: *the vacuous life of many rich people* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

vac·u·um[1] /ˈvækjuəm, -kjʊm/ *n* **1** [C] a space that is completely empty of all gas, esp. one from which all air has been taken away **2** [S] a feeling of emptiness or loss: *Her death left a vacuum in his life.*

vacuum[2] *v* [T (OUT)] *infml* to clean (a house, room, floor, etc.) with a vacuum cleaner

vacuum clean·er /ˈ··· ˌ··/ also **hoover** *BrE tdmk* ‖ also **vacuum** *AmE—* *n* an electric apparatus which cleans floors and floor coverings by sucking up the dirt from them —compare CARPET SWEEPER

vacuum flask /ˈ··· ·/ ‖ usu. **vacuum bot·tle** /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *AmE—* *n* a FLASK (3)

vacuum-packed /ˈ··· ·‖ˌ··· ˈ·/ *adj* (esp. of food offered for sale in shops) packed in a wrapping from which most of the air has been removed so that the food will remain fresh: *vacuum-packed kippers|salami*

vacuum pump /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a pump for removing air or gas from an enclosed space

vacuum tube /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n AmE* VALVE (2)

vag·a·bond /ˈvægəbɒnd‖-bɑːnd/ *n esp. lit* a person who lives a wandering life, esp. one who is thought to be lazy or worthless —compare VAGRANT

va·ga·ry /ˈveɪgəri/ *n* [*often pl.*] any of a set of unusual or unexpected events or changes that have an effect on one: *the vagaries of love|of human nature*

va·gi·na /vəˈdʒaɪnə/ *n* the passage which leads from the outer sex organs of women or female animals, to the organ (WOMB) in which young are formed —**-nal** *adj*

va·gran·cy /ˈveɪgrənsi/ *n* [U] the state or offence of being a vagrant

va·grant /ˈveɪgrənt/ *n fml or law* a person who has no home or regular work, esp. one who is poor and begs —compare VAGABOND

vague /veɪg/ *adj* **1** not clear in shape or form; INDISTINCT: *On the hillside, we could see the vague shapes of sheep coming through the mist.* **2** not clearly described, expressed, known, or established: *Our holiday plans are still rather vague. | vague promises of support | vague rumours of an election | I haven't the vaguest idea* (=I don't know at all) *who she is.* **3** unable to think or express oneself clearly: *She's so vague that I can never understand what she's trying to say.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

Vail /veɪl/ a town in Colorado in the US, which is popular and fashionable for skiing (SKI)

vain /veɪn/ *adj* **1** full of self-admiration; thinking too highly of one's appearance, abilities, etc.; CONCEITED **2** without result; unsuccessful: *a vain attempt to make him change his mind* **3** *esp. old use or lit* without meaning or value; empty: *vain threats|promises* **4 in vain** uselessly; without a successful result: *We tried in vain to make him change his mind.* —see also VANITY, **take someone's name in vain** (NAME[1]) —**~ly** *adv*: *We tried vainly to persuade her not to go.*

vain·glo·ry /veɪnˈglɔːri‖ˈveɪnglɔːri/ *n* [U] *lit or old use* great and unreasonable pride in one's abilities; great VANITY —**rious** /veɪnˈglɔːriəs/ *adj* —**riously** *adv*

val·ance /ˈvæləns/ *n* **1** a narrow length of cloth hanging as a border from the edge of a shelf, or from the frame of a bed to the floor —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** *AmE for* PELMET

vale /veɪl/ *n* (esp. *lit* or as part of a place name) a broad low valley: *the Vale of Evesham* | (pomp, humor) *this vale of tears* (=life, with all its difficulties)

val·e·dic·tion /ˌvælɨˈdɪkʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an act of) saying goodbye, esp. on very important or formal occasions

val·e·dic·to·ri·an /ˌvælɨdɪkˈtɔːriən/ *n* (in the US) the student who has received the best marks overall in his or her years in HIGH SCHOOL, college, or university and who gives the FAREWELL speech at COMMENCEMENT

val·e·dic·to·ry /ˌvælɨˈdɪktəri◂/ *adj fml or lit* used in saying goodbye: *valedictory remarks*

Va·len·ci·a /vəˈlensiə‖-tʃiə, -siə/ a port in E Spain, the capital of Valencia PROVINCE, a popular winter RESORT with several historical buildings

va·len·cy /ˈveɪlənsi/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **va·lence** /-ləns/ *esp. AmE— n tech* a measure of the power of atoms to combine together to form compounds

val·en·tine /ˈvæləntaɪn/ *n* **1** also **valentine card**– a greeting card sent to arrive on Saint Valentine's Day (February 14th), declaring one's love for someone, but usu. without giving the name of the sender **2** the person to whom a valentine is sent: *Who is your valentine?*

a valentine card



Valentine's Day /ˈ··· ˌ·/ SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

Val·en·ti·no Ru·dolph /ˌvælənˈtiːnəʊ/, /ˈruːdɒlf‖-dɑːlf/ (1895–1926) an American film actor famous for playing the part of a lover in silent films, esp. *The Sheik*. He is sometimes mentioned as a typical example of a good looking, ROMANTIC man.

val·et /ˈvælɨt, ˈvæleɪ/ *n* **1** also **gentleman's gentleman**– a man's personal male servant, who looks after his clothes, cooks his food, etc. **2** someone who cleans and presses the clothes of people staying in a hotel: *the hotel valet service*

Valetta /vəˈletə/ see VALLETTA

val·e·tu·di·nar·i·an /ˌvælɨtjuːdɨˈneəriən‖-tuːdnˈeə-/ *n old-fash fml* someone who is always thinking about the state of their health, even when this is not really necessary

Val·hal·la /vælˈhælə/ in Norse MYTHOLOGY, a place in Asgard, the Norse heaven, where only the souls of those who died very bravely rest

val·i·ant /ˈvæliənt/ also **val·or·ous** /ˈvælərəs/– *adj esp. fml or lit* very brave, esp. in war; HEROIC: *valiant resistance | a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to break the record* – **~ly** *adv*

val·id /ˈvælɨd/ *adj* **1** (of a reason, argument, etc.) firmly based on what is true or reasonable; that can be defended: *a valid excuse for arriving late at work* **2** that can legally be used for a stated period or in certain conditions: *a train ticket valid for three months | a valid passport* – opposite **invalid** **3** *law* written or done in a proper manner so that a court of law would agree with it – **~ity** /vəˈlɪdɨti/ *n* [U (**of**)]: *I would question the validity of that assumption.*

val·i·date /ˈvælɨdeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to make valid, esp. legally: *In order to validate the agreement, both parties sign it.* –**-dation** /ˌvælɨˈdeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

va·lise /vəˈliːz‖vəˈliːs/ *n* a small bag used while travelling, esp. for carrying clothes

Val·i·um /ˈvæliəm/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a drug for making people feel calmer, less anxious, etc. Using Valium can cause people to become dependent on it. Although it is only available from doctors, it is thought that it is often ABUSEd (=harmfully or carelessly used) esp. in the US.

Val·ky·rie /ˈvælkɨriː‖vælˈkɪriː/ *n* in Norse MYTHOLOGY, one of the female messengers of Odin who led the souls of the soldiers killed in battle to Valhalla

Val·let·ta, Valetta /vəˈletə/ the capital of the island of Malta, a port

val·ley /ˈvæli/ *n* **1** an area of land lying between two lines of hills or mountains, often with a river running through it –see also RIFT VALLEY, and see picture at MOUNTAIN **2 the valley of Death** *quote* a phrase from Tennyson's poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade:*

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward.
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

3 the valley of the shadow of death *quote* a phrase from the Bible often used when talking about death

▷ USAGE A deep, narrow mountain **valley**, with steep sides, is a **ravine** or **gorge**. If it is very small and steep it is a **gully**; if it is very large it is a **canyon**.◁

Valley Forge /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a place in Pennsylvania in the US where George Washington's soldiers spent a very hard winter in 1777–8 during the American Revolutionary War. Many men died because of the cold and lack of food.

val·our *BrE* ‖ **-or** *AmE* /ˈvælər/ *n* [U] *esp. fml or lit* great bravery, esp. in war –see also VALIANT

val·u·a·ble[1] /ˈvæljuəbəl, -jʊbəl‖ˈvæljʊbəl/ *adj* **1** worth a lot of money: *a valuable painting|property* **2** [(**for, to**)] having great usefulness or value: *years of valuable service | valuable advice | a waste of my valuable time*

▷ USAGE Things of great value are **valuable** or (much stronger) **priceless**: *This ancient gold coin isn't just* **valuable,** *it's* **priceless. Invaluable** is not used to talk about prices or money. It means "very useful indeed": *Your assistance has been* **invaluable.** | *Their advice proved* **invaluable** *to us on our journey.* Things of little or no value are **worthless** or (less common) **valueless**: *The metal looked like gold, but in fact it was* **worthless/valueless.**◁

valuable[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] something, esp. something small such as a piece of jewellery, that is worth a lot of money: *Guests may deposit their valuables in the hotel safe.*

val·u·a·tion /ˌvæljuˈeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] the action or business of calculating how much money something is worth: *We asked an expert to make a valuation of the painting.* **2** [C (**of, on**)] a value or price decided on: *The valuation (put) on the house was £90,000.*

val·ue[1] /ˈvæljuː/ *n* **1** [S;U] the usefulness, helpfulness, or importance of something, esp. in comparison with other things: *You'll find this map of great value in helping you to get around London.* | *The government sets a higher value on defence* (=considers it more important) *than on education.* | *Their research into ancient languages seems to have little practical value.* **2** [C;U] the worth of something in money or as compared with other goods for which it might be exchanged: *Because of continual price increases, the value of the pound has fallen in recent years.* | *land values* | *I paid him £50 for the painting, but its true value|its market value must be at least £500.* | *The thieves took some clothes and a few books, but nothing of any value|of great value.* **3** [U] worth compared with the amount paid: *We offer the best value in London: only £5 for a meal with wine and coffee!* | *You always get* **value for money** *at that shop.* (=the goods are always worth the price charged) **4** [C] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) the quantity expressed by a letter of the alphabet or other sign: *Let "x" have the value 25.* **5** [C] *tech* the length of a musical note –see also VALUES, FACE VALUE, NUISANCE VALUE, STREET VALUE; see VALUABLE (USAGE) – **~less** *adj*

value[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**at**)] to calculate the value, price, or worth of: *If you want to sell your collection of stamps you ought to have it valued.* | *The house has been valued at £42,000.* **2** to consider to be of great worth; ESTEEM: *I've always valued your friendship|your advice.* | *a valued friend*

value-ad·ded tax /ˌ·· ·· ˈ·/ *n* see VAT

value judg·ment /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a judgment about the quality of something, based on opinion rather than facts: *Try to assess her actions without making value judgments.*

val·u·er /ˈvæljuəʳ/ *n* a person whose work is to decide how much money things are worth

val·ues /ˈvæljuːz/ *n* [P] standards or principles; ideas about the worth or importance of certain qualities, esp. those generally accepted by a particular group: *moral values*

valve /vælv/ *n* **1** a doorlike part of a pipe or tube which opens and shuts so as to control the flow of liquid, air, gas, etc., through it: *The valves of the heart and blood vessels allow the blood to pass in one direction only.* –see picture at BICYCLE **2** *BrE* ‖ **vacuum tube** *AmE*– a closed glass tube with no air in it, used esp. formerly for controlling a flow of electricity in a radio, television, etc. – compare TRANSISTOR (1) **3** the part of a BRASS musical instrument that changes the sound –see picture at BRASS –see also BIVALVE, SAFETY VALVE

va·moose /væˈmuːs, və-/ *v* [I *often imperative*] *AmE old-fash sl* to go away quickly

vamp /væmp/ *n old-fash* (esp. in the 1920s and 1930s) a woman who intentionally uses her charm to make men do things for her or give her money –**vamp** *v* [I;T] : *She vamped him shamelessly.*

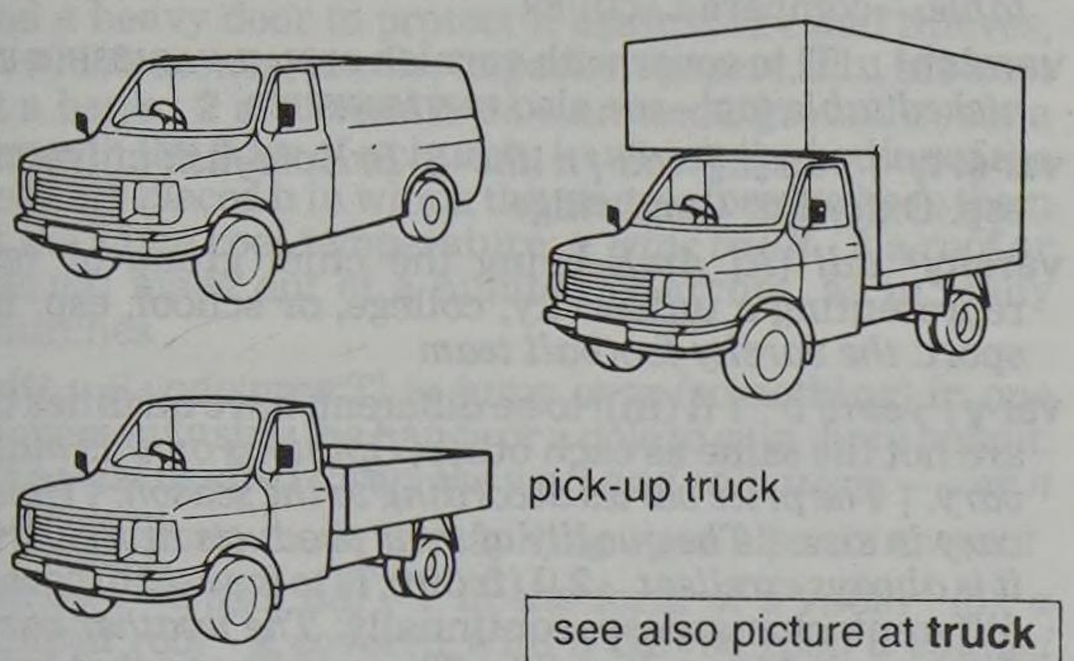
vam·pire /ˈvæmpaɪəʳ/ *n* an evil spirit which is believed to live in a dead body and suck the blood of people while they are asleep at night

▶ CULTURAL NOTE Although people do not really believe they exist, vampires have many associations: they are supposed to be unable to stand the light of day, to have no REFLECTION in a mirror, to dislike GARLIC, to be afraid of the CROSS[1] (4), to sleep in COFFINS (= the boxes people are buried in), and to be finally killed only by having a STAKE (= a

thick pointed stick) driven through their heart or by being shot with a silver bullet. The best-known vampire is Dracula, from Bram Stoker's book *Dracula*.◀

vampire bat /ˈ·· ·/ also **vampire**– *n* a South American BAT (=animal like a flying mouse) which sucks the blood of other animals

vans



pick-up truck

see also picture at **truck**

van[1] /væn/ *n* (*often in comb.*) **1** a road vehicle, usu. larger than a car but smaller than a TRUCK, having an enclosed box-shaped body and used for carrying goods and sometimes people: *a delivery van | a police van | a van driver* **2** *esp. BrE* a covered railway carriage for goods and sometimes people: *a luggage van* –see also GUARD'S VAN, REMOVAL VAN, MOVING VAN

van[2] *n* [*the*+S] *fml or lit for* VANGUARD (1,2) (esp. in the phrase **in the van**)

va·na·di·um /vəˈneɪdiəm/ *n* [U] a hard silvery metal used in making certain kinds of steel and DYES

Van·brugh /ˈvænbrə‖vænˈbruː/, **Sir John** (1664–1726) an English PLAYWRIGHT and ARCHITECT, whose work on Blenheim Palace is considered to mark the highest stage of development of the Baroque style in England

Van Bur·en /væn ˈbjuərən/, **Ab·i·gail** /ˈæbɨgeɪl/ see DEAR ABBY

Van Buren, Martin (1782–1862) the eighth president of the US (1837–41)

Van·cou·ver /vænˈkuːvəʳ/ **1** a port in SW British Columbia, Canada, on the Pacific Ocean. Vancouver is Canada's third largest city and has a university. **2** an island off the SW coast of British Columbia, Canada, also called **Vancouver Island**

V & A /ˌviː ənd ˈeɪ/ [*the*] *BrE infml for* VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

van·dal /ˈvændl/ *n* a person who intentionally damages or destroys public property or things belonging to other people: *The seat-covers on the train had been ripped by vandals.*

van·dal·is·m /ˈvændəl-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] intentional and needless damage or destruction, esp. of public buildings and other public property

van·dal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈvændəl-aɪz/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to damage or destroy (esp. a piece of public property) intentionally: *We can't use any of the public telephones round here; they've all been vandalized.*

Van·der·bilt /ˈvændəbɪlt‖-ər-/ the name of a family of rich Americans who first made money in steamships and railways. The most well-known person in the family today is **Gloria Vanderbilt** (1924–), who CREATES fashionable clothes.

Van Dyck /væn ˈdaɪk/, **Sir Anthony** (1599–1641) a Flemish painter, known esp. for his PORTRAITS of Charles I and the royal family

van·dyke /vænˈdaɪk/ also **vandyke beard** /·ˌ· ˈ·/– *n* a small, pointed beard which covers only the chin and over the top lip

vane /veɪn/ *n* a bladelike part of certain machines, which has a flat surface that makes it possible to use the force of wind or water as the driving power: *the vanes of a propeller* –see also WEATHER VANE

Van Gogh /væn ˈgɒx, -ˈgɒf ‖ -ˈgəʊ/, **Vin·cent** /ˈvɪnsənt/ (1853–90) a Dutch painter of the Post-Impressionist school, whose most famous work was done in the last months of his life. His paintings are mainly in bright colours, with many small lines of paint in swirling (SWIRL) patterns. Van Gogh is also famous for cutting off his ear in a moment of near-madness. –see colour picture on page 1016

van·guard /ˈvængɑːd‖-gɑːrd/ *n* **1** [*the*+S] the leading position at the front of an army or group of ships moving into battle **2** [C+*sing./pl. v*] the soldiers who take up this position: *The vanguard is|are under attack.* **3** [*the*+S] the leading or most advanced position in any course of development: *In the 19th century Britain was* **in the vanguard of** *industrial progress.* –compare REARGUARD

va·nil·la[1] /vəˈnɪlə/ *n* [U] a strong-smelling substance obtained from the beans of a tropical plant, used for improving the taste of certain sweet foods: *vanilla ice cream*

vanilla[2] *adj* **1** having the taste of vanilla **2** *sometimes derog* ordinary, uninteresting, and lacking excitement: *vanilla decor*

van·ish /ˈvænɪʃ/ *v* [I] **1** to disappear or go suddenly out of sight, esp. in an unexplained way: *With a wave of his hand, the magician made the rabbit vanish.* **2** to exist no longer; come to an end: *Many species of animal have now vanished (from the face of the earth). | My fears|hopes vanished.*

van·i·ty /ˈvænɨti/ *n* [U] **1** the quality of being VAIN; unreasonable pride in oneself or one's appearance, abilities, etc.; CONCEIT: *"He's always looking at himself in the mirror." "What vanity!"* **2** *fml or lit* the quality of being without true lasting value: *the vanity of human wishes* **3 vanity of vanities** *derog* a phrase used before mentioning something that shows great pride and stupidity: *He built a model castle in his front garden with, vanity of vanities, a procession of garden gnomes leading up to it.*

Vanity Fair /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *fml derog* **1** the social life of a place or of the world, regarded as lacking seriousness and moral worth (from a place in the book *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan) **2** a NOVEL by William Thackeray, a SATIRE on upper-middle-class life in Victorian times **3** a magazine sold in the US and Britain that covers fashion and some current affairs

vanity plate /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a car NUMBERPLATE for which the owner has paid to have the combination of letters or numbers he or she wants: *She had vanity plates on her car which read WAVE2ME.*

vanity press /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a company to which writers can pay money to have their books printed. Books printed in this way may be sold by the writer but are not usu. sold in bookstores: *He had his poetry bound into a pretty little volume by a vanity press.*

vanity ta·ble /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n AmE* DRESSING TABLE

vanity u·nit /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n BrE* a furniture unit like a table with a WASHBASIN built into the top of it, usu. with a small cupboard below

van·quish /ˈvæŋkwɪʃ/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* to defeat completely

van·tage·point *BrE* ‖ **vantage point** *AmE*– /ˈvɑːntɪdʒ pɔɪnt ‖ ˈvæn-/ *n* **1** a good position from which to attack, defend, or see something: *Security police took up vantagepoints overlooking the route of the procession.* **2** a point of view; PERSPECTIVE: *I quite agree that from your vantagepoint his action must have seemed unwise.*

Van·u·a·tu /ˌvænuˈɑːtuː/ a country in the SW Pacific Ocean, E of Australia, made up of a chain of VOLCANIC islands, formerly called the **New Hebrides**; capital Vila; population 136,000 (1989)

Van Winkle, Rip see RIP VAN WINKLE

vap·id /ˈvæpɨd/ *adj fml* without liveliness, interest, or imagination; dull: *a vapid person|style of writing* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness, ~ity** /vəˈpɪdɨti/ *n* [U]

va·por·ize ‖ also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈveɪpəraɪz/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) change into vapour: *Water vaporizes when it boils.* –**-ization** /ˌveɪpəraɪˈzeɪʃən‖-rə-/ *n* [U]

vapor trail /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* CONTRAIL

va·pour *BrE* ‖ **-por** *AmE* /ˈveɪpəʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] a gaslike form of a liquid, such as mist or steam, often caused by a sudden change of temperature: *A cloud is a mass of vapour in the sky. | Strange vapours rose from the dark lake.* **2** [U] *tech* the gas to which the stated liquid or solid can be changed by the action of heat: *water vapour* –**vaporous** *adj* : *Vaporous clouds arose from the lake.*

va·pours *BrE* ‖ **-pors** *AmE* /ˈveɪpəz‖-ərz/ *n* [*the*+P] *old use*

or humor a state of feeling suddenly faint: *Arabella had the vapours if any indelicate subject was mentioned.*

var·i·a·ble[1] /ˈveəriəbəl/ *adj* **1** tending or likely to vary; not staying the same; not steady: *The winds today will be light and variable.* **2** that can be varied by the user: *The temperature inside the car is variable.* **3** *euph* varying in quality; sometimes good and sometimes bad; UNEVEN: *The team's performance this year has been very variable.* —**-bly** *adv* —**-bility** /ˌveəriəˈbɪlɨti/, **~ness** /ˈveəriəbəlnɨs/ *n* [U]

variable[2] *n esp. tech* something which can vary in quantity or size: *The time of the journey depends on a number of variables, such as the volume of traffic on the road.* | *There are too many variables to predict the result accurately.* —compare CONSTANT[2]

var·i·ance /ˈveəriəns/ *n* **at variance (with)** in opposition (to); not in agreement (with): *What he did was at variance with his earlier promises.*

var·i·ant[1] /ˈveəriənt/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] different; varying: *variant spellings* | *a variant form of a word*

variant[2] *n* [**of**] a (slightly) different form, e.g. of a word, phrase, or pronunciation: *"Favor" is the American variant of the British "favour".*

var·i·a·tion /ˌveəriˈeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (**in**)] (an example or degree of) the fact of varying: *The average price of new houses is about £50,000, but there are wide regional variations.* | *Because these clothes are handmade there may be some (slight) variations in colour.* **2** [C (**on**)] any of a set of short pieces of music, each based on the same simple tune but with different decorative changes or developments made to it: *Elgar's "Enigma Variations"*

var·i·cose veins /ˌværɨkəʊs ˈveɪnz/ *n* [P] a medical condition in which the blood tubes, esp. in the leg, have become very swollen

var·ied /ˈveərid/ *adj* **1** of different kinds; DIVERSE: *Varied opinions were expressed about the new play.* | *a singer with a very varied repertoire* **2** not staying the same; changing: *She's led a varied life.*

var·ie·gat·ed /ˈveərɪgeɪtɨd/ *adj* (esp. of a flower or leaf) marked irregularly in different coloured spots, lines, areas, etc.

var·ie·ga·tion /ˌveərɪˈgeɪʃən/ *n* [U] irregular colour marking, esp. in plants

va·ri·e·ty /vəˈraɪəti/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of varying; difference in quality, type, or character: *She didn't like the work because it lacked variety; she was doing the same things all the time.* **2** [S (**of**)] a number or collection of different sorts of the same general type: *Everyone arrived late at the party, for a variety of* (=many different) *reasons.* | *The shirt is available in a (wide) variety of colours.* **3** [C (**of**)] a particular type that is different from others in a group to which it belongs; sort: *We're growing a new variety of wheat this year.* | *fast-growing varieties of fir tree* **4** [U] a form of entertainment for theatre or television in which a number of different types of short performance are given, such as singing, dancing, telling jokes, etc.: *a variety show/artiste* —compare MUSIC HALL, VAUDEVILLE **5 variety is the spice of life** *saying* the chance or the ability to do many different things, know many different people, etc., is what makes life enjoyable

Variety Club of Great Brit·ain /ˈ·ˌ··· ˌ· · · ˈ··/ [*the*] a CHARITY (1) organization whose members are in SHOW BUSINESS, which gives money, holidays, vehicles, etc. to poor or disabled children

variety meats /ˈ·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [P] *AmE for* OFFAL

variety store /ˈ·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a shop which sells many different kinds of goods, often at low prices: *Variety stores such as K-Mart and Target sell everything from clothes to cameras to gardening equipment.*

var·i·ous /ˈveəriəs/ *adj* **1** different from each other; of (many) different kinds: *There has been snow today in various parts of the country.* | *For various reasons I'd prefer not to meet him.* | *The products we sell are* **many and various.** **2** [A *no comp.*] several; a number of: *Various people said they'd seen the accident.* —see DIFFERENT (USAGE)

var·i·ous·ly /ˈveəriəsli/ *adv fml* in various ways or at various times; differently: *The cost of the damage has been variously estimated at between £5000 and £25,000.*

var·let /ˈvɑːlɨt‖ˈvɑːr-/ *n old use* a wicked or worthless man; KNAVE

var·mint /ˈvɑːmɨnt‖ˈvɑːr-/ *n old-fash or dial, esp. AmE* a troublesome worthless person or animal, esp. a young male

var·nish[1] /ˈvɑːnɪʃ‖ˈvɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) liquid which, when brushed onto articles made esp. of wood and allowed to dry, gives a clear hard bright surface —see also NAIL VARNISH **2** [(*the*) S] the shiny appearance produced by using this substance: *Hot plates may spoil the varnish on a table.* —compare LACQUER

varnish[2] *v* [T] to cover with varnish or NAIL VARNISH: *a varnished table top* —see also UNVARNISHED

var·si·ty[1] /ˈvɑːsɨti‖ˈvɑːr-/ *n* [*the*+S] *BrE old-fash* university, esp. Oxford or Cambridge

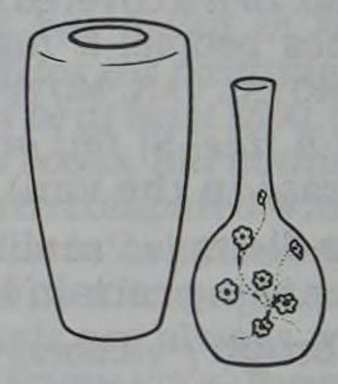
varsity[2] *adj* [A] *AmE* being the chief group or team representing a university, college, or school, esp. in a sport: *the varsity football team*

var·y /ˈveəri/ *v* **1** [I (**in**)] to be different; have qualities that are not the same as each other: *Opinions on this matter vary.* | *The price varies according to the season.* | *Houses vary in size.* | *The quality of their products never varies; it is always excellent.* **2** [I (**from**);T] to (cause to) become different; change, esp. continually: *The weather varied from very cold to quite mild.* | *The security van that brings our wages always varies its route.* —see also VARIED

vas·cu·lar /ˈvæskjʊlər/ *adj tech* of or containing tubes through which liquids move in the bodies of animals or plants: *a vascular system*

vase /vɑːz‖veɪs, veɪz/ *n* a decorative container, usu. shaped like a deep pot with a rather narrow opening at the top and usu. made of glass or baked clay, used for decoration or to put flowers in

vases



va·sec·to·my /vəˈsektəmi/ *n* [C;U] the medical operation of cutting the small tube that carries the male seeds (SPERM), done so that a man is unable to produce children

Vas·e·line /ˈvæsɨliːn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft yellow or white jelly used for various medical and other purposes

vas·sal /ˈvæsəl/ *n* (during the Middle Ages) a person who promised to be loyal to a lord and to serve him or fight for him and who in return was given land by the lord

Vas·sar Col·lege /ˌvæsə ˈkɒlɪdʒ‖-sər ˈkɑː-/ also **Vassar**— an American college in New York State which originally was only for women students

vast /vɑːst‖væst/ *adj* very large and wide; great in amount or esp. in area: *The vast plains stretch for hundreds of miles.* | *The actors were brought from New York to London at vast expense.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

vast·ly /ˈvɑːstli‖ˈvæstli/ *adv* very greatly: *This is vastly superior to his previous film.* | *a vastly overrated actress*

vast·ness·es /ˈvɑːstnɨsɪz‖ˈvæst-/ *n* [P] *esp. lit* a great empty area: *the vastnesses of space*

vat /væt/ *n* a very large barrel or other container for holding liquids, such as WHISKY, DYE, etc., esp. when they are being made

VAT /ˌviː eɪ ˈtiː, væt/ *n* [U] value-added tax; (in Britain and many other European countries) a tax added to the price of something you buy, and paid by the buyer to the seller, who then pays it to the government —compare SALES TAX

Vat·i·can /ˈvætɪkən/ [*the*] **1** the large palace in which the Pope (=head of the Roman Catholic Church) lives, in Rome: *At last, white smoke could be seen coming from the Vatican chimney.* **2** the government or office of the Pope: *The Vatican is taking a hard line on birth control.*

Vatican City /ˌ··· ˈ··/ the independent state within Italy which contains the Vatican and has its own PASSPORTS, money, etc. It also contains buildings which contain many of the world's greatest works of art.

Vatican Coun·cil /ˌ··· ˈ··/ [*the*] either of the two important councils of the Roman Catholic Church at which important church matters were discussed. The first (1869–70) discussed the Pope's INFALLIBILITY and the second (1962–65), known as Vatican II, discussed the place of the church in the modern world.

vau·de·ville /ˈvɔːdəvɪl, ˈvəʊ-/ *n* [U] *AmE* theatre, entertainment with songs, jokes, acts of skill, etc. Vaudeville shows were popular from the late 1800s until the 1950s.

Many famous COMEDIANS (=people who tell jokes) and actors began in vaudeville. —compare VARIETY

Vaughan Wil·liams /ˌvɔːn ˈwɪljəmz/, **Ralph** /reɪf/ (1872–1958) an English COMPOSER who is known for his arrangements using English FOLK music. His work includes *Norfolk Rhapsodies* and *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*.

vault[1] /vɔːlt/ *n* **1** also **vaults** *pl.*— a room with thick walls and a heavy door to protect it against fire and thieves, in which money, jewels, important papers, etc., are kept at a bank **2** also **vaults** *pl.*— an underground room **a** beneath the floor of a church, in which the bodies of the dead are placed **b** in which things are stored to keep them at the same cool temperature: *a wine vault* **3** a roof or CEILING made out of a number of arches, as in many churches

vault[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] to jump over (something) in one movement using the hands or a pole to gain more height: *The thief vaulted (over) the wall and ran away.* —**~er** *n*

vault[3] *n* a jump made by vaulting —see also POLE VAULT

vault·ed /ˈvɔːltɨd/ *adj* **1** in the form of a VAULT[1] (3): *a vaulted roof* **2** covered with a curved roof: *a vaulted passage*

vault·ing[1] /ˈvɔːltɪŋ/ *n* [U] arches in a roof

vaulting[2] *adj* [A] *lit* reaching or aiming for the highest point: *His* **vaulting ambition** *eventually caused his downfall.*

vaulting horse /ˈ·· ·/ also **horse**— *n* a wooden apparatus which people can jump over for exercise

vaunt[1] /vɔːnt/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* to praise (something) too much; BOAST about

vaunt[2] *n lit* an example of vaunting; BOAST

Vaux·hall /ˈvɒksɔːl‖ˈvɑːk-/ a British car maker now owned by General Motors of the US

VC /ˌviː ˈsiː/ *n* Victoria Cross; a special MEDAL given to members of the British armed forces who have performed acts of extreme bravery in war

VCR /ˌviː siː ˈɑːr/ *n* a video cassette recorder; a VIDEO[2] (2)

VD /ˌviː ˈdiː/ ‖ usu. **STD** *AmE*— *n* [U] venereal disease; disease passed from one person to another during sexual activity

VDU /ˌviː diː ˈjuː/ *n* visual display unit; an apparatus with a SCREEN which shows information, esp. from a computer or WORD PROCESSOR —see picture at COMPUTER

-'ve /v, əv/ *short for:* have: *We've finished.* | *If you've time, come and see me.*

veal /viːl/ *n tech* [U] meat from a CALF (=the young of a cow) —see MEAT (USAGE)

vec·tor /ˈvektəʳ/ *n tech* **1** (in science) a quantity which has direction as well as size and which can be represented by an ARROW the length of which has a direct relationship with the size —compare SCALAR **2** an insect, such as a fly or MOSQUITO, which can carry a disease from one living thing to another **3** the course of an aircraft

Ve·da /ˈveɪdə/ *n* [P] the oldest writings of the Hindu religion

Ve·dan·ta /vɨˈdɑːntə, -ˈdæn-/ *n* the system of Hindu thought about religion

V-E Day /ˌviː ˈiː ˌdeɪ/ *n* Victory in Europe Day; May 8th 1945, the day on which victory in Europe in the Second World War was celebrated

veep /viːp/ *n AmE infml for* VICE PRESIDENT

veer /vɪəʳ/ *v* [I] **1** [+*adv/prep*] to turn or change direction: *The car went out of control and veered across the road.* | (fig.) *We were talking about food, and then suddenly the conversation veered round to stomach diseases.* **2** *tech* (of the wind) to change direction, moving round in the order North–East–South–West —compare BACK[4] (5)

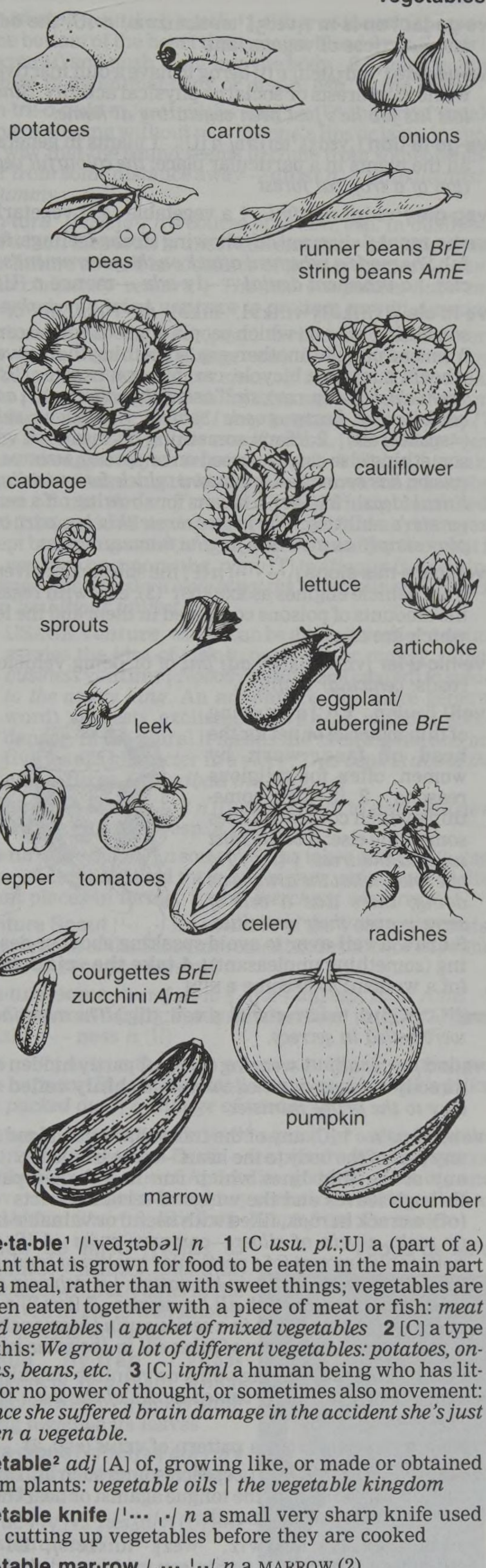
veg /vedʒ/ *n* **veg** [C;U] *BrE infml* (a) vegetable, usu. when cooked: *meat and two veg*

ve·gan /ˈviːgən‖ˈviːdʒən/ *n* a person who does not eat meat, fish, eggs, or cheese or drink milk. Many vegans will not wear or use animal products such as leather. —compare VEGETARIAN[1] —**vegan** *adj*

Ve·gas /ˈveɪgəs/ LAS VEGAS

ve·ge·bur·ger /ˈvedʒibɜːgəʳ ‖ -ɜːr-/ *n* a BURGER made with vegetables, PULSES, etc. but no meat

vegetables



vege·ta·ble[1] /ˈvedʒtəbəl/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*;U] a (part of a) plant that is grown for food to be eaten in the main part of a meal, rather than with sweet things; vegetables are often eaten together with a piece of meat or fish: *meat and vegetables* | *a packet of mixed vegetables* **2** [C] a type of this: *We grow a lot of different vegetables: potatoes, onions, beans, etc.* **3** [C] *infml* a human being who has little or no power of thought, or sometimes also movement: *Since she suffered brain damage in the accident she's just been a vegetable.*

vegetable[2] *adj* [A] of, growing like, or made or obtained from plants: *vegetable oils* | *the vegetable kingdom*

vegetable knife /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a small very sharp knife used for cutting up vegetables before they are cooked

vegetable mar·row /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* a MARROW (2)

vegetable oil /ˈ··· ˌ·/ [U] oil used in cooking which is obtained from plants

ve·ge·tar·i·an[1] /ˌvedʒɨˈteəriən◂/ *n* a person who does not eat meat or fish, but only vegetables, grains, fruit, eggs, etc., either for moral reasons or because it is thought to be healthier —compare VEGAN

vegetarian[2] *adj* **1** of or for vegetarians: *a vegetarian*

restaurant **2** made up only of vegetables: *a vegetarian meal*

ve·ge·tar·i·an·is·m /ˌvedʒɨˈteəriənɪzəm/ *n* [U] the beliefs and practices of vegetarians

ve·ge·tate /ˈvedʒɨteɪt/ *v* [I] *derog* to have a dull inactive life without interests or social or physical activity: *Since he lost his job he's just been vegetating at home.*

ve·ge·ta·tion /ˌvedʒɨˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** plants in general **2** all the plants in a particular place: *the colourful vegetation of a tropical forest*

veg·gie /ˈvedʒi/ *n infml* **1** a vegetable **2** a vegetarian

ve·he·ment /ˈviːəmənt/ *adj* showing strong feelings; forceful: *She made a vehement attack on the government's policies.* | *a vehement denial* —**~ly** *adv* —**-mence** *n* [U]

ve·hi·cle /ˈviːɪkəl‖ˈviːɪkəl, -hɪkəl/ *n* **1** *esp. fml or tech* something in or on which people or goods can be carried from one place to another, esp. something that moves on wheels, such as a bicycle, car, bus, TRUCK, etc.: *"Is this your vehicle* (=esp. car)*, sir?" asked the policeman.* | *a road vehicle* | *a heavy goods vehicle* | *a space vehicle* (=spacecraft) **2** [(**for**)] something by means of which something else can be passed on or spread; MEDIUM: *Television has become an important vehicle for spreading political ideas.* **3** [(**for**)] a means for showing off a certain person's abilities: *The writer wrote this big part in his play simply as a vehicle for the famous actress.*

vehicle e·mis·sions /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ *n* [P] the substances given out from vehicle engines as EXHAUST²(2), esp. with regard to the amounts of poisons contained in them and the levels which are allowed

ve·hic·u·lar /viːˈhɪkjʊlər/ *adj fml* of or being vehicles on roads: *vehicular traffic*

veil



veil¹ /veɪl/ *n* **1** [C] a covering of thin material or net for the head or face, worn by women, often for religious reasons **2** [S (**of**)] something which covers or hides something else: *A veil of mist covered the trees.* | (fig.) *No one knew what the army was doing; there was a veil of secrecy over their activities.* **3 draw a veil over** to avoid speaking about or describing (something unpleasant) **4 take the veil** *lit or tech* (of a woman) to become a NUN

veil² *v* [T (**in**)] to cover with a veil: (fig.) *The negotiations were veiled in secrecy.*

veiled /veɪld/ *adj* **1** wearing a veil **2** partly hidden or indirectly expressed: *veiled threats* | *a* **thinly veiled** *reference to the prime minister*

vein /veɪn/ *n* **1** [C] any of the tubes that carry blood from any part of the body to the heart —compare ARTERY **2** [C] any of the thin lines which run in a forked pattern through leaves and the wings of certain insects **3** [C (**of**)] a crack in rock, filled with useful or valuable metal or rock: *a vein of silver* —compare SEAM **4** [S+**of**] a noticeable amount (of a particular quality or tendency): *There's a vein of cruelty in his nature.* | *a rich vein of humour that runs through all her stories* **5** [**in**+S] a style or MOOD: *If I may speak in a serious vein* (=seriously) *for a moment...* | *a number of jokes all in the same vein*

veined /veɪnd/ *adj* having veins or veinlike markings: *a veined leaf* | *the many-veined wings of the bee* | *veined marble*

vein·ing /ˈveɪnɪŋ/ *n* [U] a pattern of VEINS (esp. 2)

ve·lar /ˈviːlər/ *n, adj tech* (a speech sound such as /k/ or /g/) made with the back of the tongue against or near the soft part of the top of the mouth

Ve·lás·quez /vɨˈlæskwɪz, -wez‖-ˈlɑːskeɪs/, **Di·e·go Ro·drig·uez de Sil·va y** /diˈeɪgəʊ rɒˈdriːgez də ˈsɪlvə iː‖-rɑːˈdriː-/ (1599–1660) the most important painter of the Spanish school best known for his PORTRAITS of the Spanish court

vel·cro /ˈvelkrəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* (*often cap.*) a material used for fastening things together, consisting of a surface covered with a large number of very small nylon points that can fasten tightly to another piece of velcro when the two pieces are pressed together

veld , veldt /velt/ *n* [*the*+S] the wild high flat mostly treeless grassland of South Africa

vel·lum /ˈveləm/ *n* [U] a material made from the skins of young cows, goats, or sheep, and used esp. for book covers and, in former times, for writing on

ve·loc·i·pede /vɨˈlɒsɨpiːd‖vɨˈlɑː-/ *n old use or humor* a bicycle

ve·loc·i·ty /vɨˈlɒsɨti‖vɨˈlɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] *tech* speed in a certain direction; rate of movement: *the velocity of light* **2** [S;U] *fml* high speed: *The car came round the corner at such a velocity that the driver was unable to keep it on the road.* —see also ESCAPE VELOCITY

vel·o·drome /ˈveləˌdrəʊm/ *n* a track made for racing bicycles, often with seats at the side for people to watch the race

ve·lour , velours /vəˈlʊəʳ/ *n* [U] a heavy material made from silk, cotton, etc., with a soft slightly furry surface

Vel·vee·ta /velˈviːtə/ *n* [U] *tdmk* (in the US) a kind of CHEESE

vel·vet /ˈvelvɨt/ *n* [U] a fine closely-woven material made of silk, nylon, cotton, etc., with a soft furry surface on one side only. Velvet is thought of in connection with LUXURY: *velvet curtains* | *a velvet jacket*

vel·ve·teen /ˌvelvɨˈtiːn◂/ *n* [U] a cheap material made of cotton but having the appearance of velvet

velvet rev·o·lu·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* (*sometimes caps.*) a sudden great social or political change which takes place with little or no violence. The phrase is esp. used to describe events in some Communist countries of Europe in the early 1990s.

vel·vet·y /ˈvelvɨti/ *adj apprec* **1** (of a thing which is soft to the touch) looking or feeling like velvet: *the kitten's velvety fur* **2** (of a colour) having a soft deep look: *velvety brown* **3** (esp. of wine) very smooth to the taste; not acid

ve·nal /ˈviːnl/ *adj fml derog* **1** ready to behave in an unfair or dishonest way, esp. by using one's power or position to help other people in return for money or other reward: *venal judges* **2** (of an action, practice, or behaviour) done in order to gain money, rather than for the proper or honest reasons —compare VENIAL —**~ly** *adv* —**~ity** /viːˈnælɨti/ *n* [U]

vend /vend/ *v* [T] **1** *law* to sell (esp. land or other property) **2** *fml* to offer (small articles) for sale, usu. in public places

ven·det·ta /venˈdetə/ *n* **1** a long-lasting quarrel between families, in which the members of one family believe it to be their duty to kill those of the other family —compare FEUD¹ **2** a situation in which one person continually tries to harm another: *The politician claimed that the damaging stories were part of a press vendetta.* | *He said the papers were waging a vendetta against him.*

vending ma·chine /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ also **slot machine** BrE— *n* a machine in a public place from which articles such as packets of cigarettes, drinks, stamps, etc., can be obtained by putting a coin into it

vend·or , -er /ˈvendəʳ/ *n* **1** a seller of small articles that can be carried about or pushed on a cart: *a fruit vendor* —see also NEWSVENDOR **2** *law* the seller of a house, land, etc.

ve·neer¹ /vɨˈnɪəʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] a thin covering of good quality wood, used for forming the outer surface of an article made of a cheaper material **2** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] an outer appearance which hides the unpleasant reality: *Beneath that veneer of respectability there lurked a cunning and unscrupulous criminal.*

veneer² *v* [T (**with, in**)] to cover with a veneer

ven·e·ra·ble /ˈvenərəbəl/ *adj* **1** *fml apprec* (of an old person or thing) deserving great respect or honour, because of character, religious or historical importance, etc.: *the venerable walls of the cathedral* **2** [A *no comp.*] (*often cap.*) **a** (in the Church of England) (the title given to a priest) having the rank of ARCHDEACON: *the Venerable Percival Potter* **b** (in the Roman Catholic Church) (the title given to a dead person) who will in the future be declared a SAINT (=holy person) **3** *infml, esp. humor* old

ven·e·rate /ˈvenəreɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to treat (a person or thing, esp. one that is old or connected with the past) with great respect and honour, and sometimes worship —**-ration** /ˌvenəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *The Chinese people hold their ancestors in great veneration.*

ve·ne·re·al /vɨˈnɪəriəl/ *adj med* resulting from, connected with, or passed on by sexual activity: *venereal infections*

venereal dis·ease /ˈ·ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ also **VD**– *n* [C;U] a disease passed from one person to another during sexual activity: *Gonorrhea and syphilis are venereal diseases.*

Ve·ne·tian /vəˈniːʃən/ *n* [C] a person who comes from VENICE –**Venetian** *adj*

ve·ne·tian blind /ˈ·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a window covering made of long thin flat bars of metal, plastic, or wood fixed to strings in such a way that the bars can be raised or lowered, or turned in order to let in or shut out light –compare LOUVRE BLIND, ROLLER BLIND

Ven·e·zue·la /ˌvenəˈzweɪlə/ a country in the N of South America which produces oil, coffee and other products; capital Caracas; population 19,246,000 (1989) –**-lan** *n,adj*

ven·geance /ˈvendʒəns/ *n* **1** [U] punishment given to someone in return for harm they have done to oneself, one's family, etc.: *He swore to* **take vengeance on** *the people who had killed his sister.* –compare AVENGE, REVENGE **2 with a vengeance** *infml* to a high degree; with greater force than is usual: *The wind's blowing with a vengeance; it's almost impossible to walk against it.* **3 vengeance is mine (said the Lord)** *saying from the Bible* people should not try to take REVENGE themselves for wrongs which have been done to them, but should leave it to God to punish people

venge·ful /ˈvendʒfəl/ *adj esp. lit* showing a fierce desire to punish someone for the harm they have done to oneself –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

ve·ni /ˈveɪni/ *Lat* **veni, vidi, vici** /ˌveɪni ˌviːdi ˈviːki/ a phrase used by Julius Caesar. It is Latin for "I came, I saw, I conquered".

ve·ni·al /ˈviːniəl/ *adj fml* (of a fault, mistake, wrongdoing, etc.) of only slight importance and therefore forgivable: *a venial sin* –compare VENAL

Ven·ice /ˈvenɨs/ a city in north-east Italy rich in fine buildings and works of art and famous for its CANALS –see also DEATH IN VENICE

ven·i·son /ˈvenɨzən, -sən/ *n* [U] the flesh of a deer eaten as food. In Britain, venison is expensive and considered to be a rather special meat. In the US, only people who hunt deer as a sport usu. eat venison. –see MEAT (USAGE)

Venn di·a·gram /ˈven ˌdaɪəgræm/ *n* a way of showing relations among a number of things by the use of circles, each of which represents one thing and may OVERLAP to some degree with another circle: *This Venn diagram shows the percentages of speakers fluent in French, Arabic, and/or English.*

ven·om /ˈvenəm/ *n* [U] **1** liquid poison which certain snakes, insects, and other creatures use in biting or stinging **2** bitter anger or hatred; extreme bad feeling: *Her remarks about him were full of venom.*

ven·om·ous /ˈvenəməs/ *adj* **1** (of a snake, insect, etc.) having an organ that produces poison; able to attack with poison **2** full of bitter hatred, bad feeling, etc.; MALICIOUS: *a venomous look* –~**ly** *adv*

ve·nous /ˈviːnəs/ *adj med* **1** of the VEINS (=blood tubes) of the body –see also INTRAVENOUS **2** (of blood) that is returning to the heart –compare ARTERIAL (1)

vent[1] /vent/ *v* [T (**on**)] to give expression to (one's feelings), esp. unfairly: *He had had a bad day at work and vented his anger on his family.* (=directed it at them)

vent[2] *n* **1** a hole, opening, or pipe by which gases, smoke, air, or liquid can enter or escape from an enclosed space or a container: *an air vent* –see also VENTILATE, and see picture at CAR **2** *tech* the opening through which small animals, birds, fish, and snakes get rid of waste matter from their bodies **3** *tech* a long narrow straight opening at the bottom of a piece of clothing, at the sides or back **4 give vent to** to express (a strong feeling) freely: *He gave vent to his anger by kicking the chair.*

ven·ti·late /ˈventɨleɪt‖-tl-eɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to allow or cause fresh air to enter and move around inside (a room, building, etc.), thus driving out bad air, smoke, gas, etc.: *a well-ventilated room* **2** *fml* to permit or cause full public examination of (a subject or question) –**-lation** /ˌventɨˈleɪʃənǁ-tlˈeɪ-/ *n* [U]: *The workers complained about the factory's lack of ventilation.*

ven·ti·la·tor /ˈventɨleɪtəʳǁ-tl-eɪ-/ *n* **1** an apparatus for ventilating a room, building, etc.: *a ventilator shaft* **2** an apparatus for pumping air into and out of the lungs of someone who cannot breathe properly: *The patient is on a ventilator.*

ven·tri·cle /ˈventrɪkəl/ *n tech* **1** either of the two spaces in the bottom of the heart that receive blood from the atria (ATRIUM) and push it out into the body **2** a small hollow place in an animal body or organ, esp. in the brain

ven·tril·o·quis·m /venˈtrɪləkwɪzəm/ *n* [U] the art of speaking or singing without moving one's lips or jaws, in such a way that the sound seems to come from someone else or from some distance away –**-quist** *n*: *a ventriloquist's dummy*

ven·ture[1] /ˈventʃəʳ/ *n* a course of action, esp. in business, of which the result is uncertain and there is a risk of loss or failure as well as a chance of gain or success: *a commercial/costly venture* | *The two companies have embarked on a* **joint venture** *to produce cars in America.*

venture[2] *v fml* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to risk going somewhere or doing something (dangerous): *Today's the first time I've ventured out of doors since my illness.* **2** [T] to take the risk of saying (something that may be opposed or considered foolish); dare: *If I may* **venture an opinion,** *I'd say the plan needs closer examination.* [+*to-v*] *May I venture to suggest a few improvements?* **3** [T (**on**)] to take the risk of harming or losing: *He ventured his whole fortune on one throw of the dice.* **4 nothing ventured, nothing gained** *saying* one cannot obtain anything except by risking something or making an effort to obtain it

venture on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to attempt (something dangerous or risky): *Now is not the time to venture on such an ambitious project.*

▷ USAGE **Venture**, which can be either a verb or a noun, carries the idea of risk to one's life or money: *a new business* **venture** | *Nobody* **ventured** (=dared) *to speak to the angry king.* An **adventure** (the more general word) suggests excitement, with or without some danger. In the plural it means the exciting life and activities of a character in a story: *This book is about the* **adventures** *of Sindbad the Sailor.*◁

venture cap·i·tal /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [U] money lent to start up a new business company, esp. a risky one

ven·tur·er /ˈventʃərəʳ/ *n* someone who takes great risks, esp. someone who risked their life, money, ships, etc., in distant places in former times: *merchant venturers*

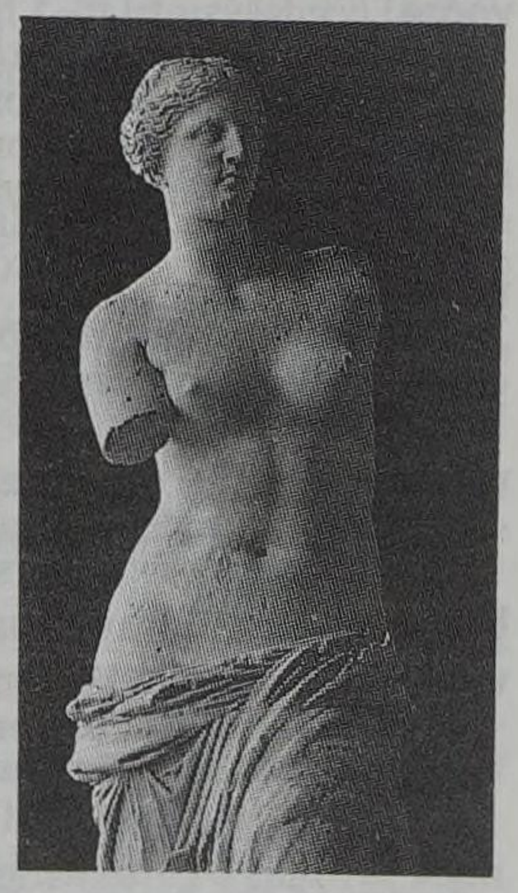
Venture Scout /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a member of the **Venture Scouts,** the branch of the Scout movement in Britain for boys and girls of 16 to 20 years old

ven·ture·some /ˈventʃəsəm ‖ -tʃər-/ *adj esp. lit or AmE* **1** (of a person) daring; ready to take risks **2** (of an action) risky –~**ness** *n* [U]

ven·ue /ˈvenjuː/ *n* the place where something is arranged to happen: *The Grand Hotel, venue of this week's talks, is packed out.* | *a change of venue*

Ve·nus /ˈviːnəs/ **1** the PLANET second in order from the sun, and next to the Earth –see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM **2** the Roman name of Aphrodite, goddess of beauty and love. A beautiful woman may sometimes be described as a Venus: *She rose like some Venus from the waves.*

Venus de Mi·lo /ˌviːnəs də ˈmiːləʊ, -ˈmaɪləʊ/ [*the*] a famous STATUE of Venus in the Louvre in Paris well known for having no arms



Venus de Milo

Venus fly·trap /ˌviːnəs ˈflaɪtræp/ *n* a plant which catches flies by quickly shutting together its leaves

ve·ra·cious /vəˈreɪʃəs/ *adj rare* truthful: *a veracious witness* –~**ly** *adv*

ve·rac·i·ty /vəˈræsɨti/ *n* [U] *fml* truthfulness

ve·ran·da , -dah /vəˈrændə/ ‖ also **porch** *AmE*– *n* an open area with a floor and a roof at the side of a house on the ground floor. Houses in hot countries sometimes have a veranda: *She sat in the shade on the veranda.* –compare PATIO

verb /vɜːb‖vɜːrb/ *n* a word or group of words that is used in describing an action, experience, or state (such as *wrote* in *She wrote a letter, put on* in *He put on his coat,* or *feels* in *She feels hungry*). In this dictionary the letter [I] shows that a verb is INTRANSITIVE and the letter [T] shows that a verb is TRANSITIVE: *the first person singular of the verb "to be"* | *to conjugate a verb* —see also AUXILIARY VERB, PHRASAL VERB

verb·al /ˈvɜːbəl‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj* **1** spoken, not written: *a verbal description* —opposite **nonverbal** **2** connected with words and their use: *verbal skill* | *verbal abuse* —compare VERBOSE **3** of a verb —see also VERBAL NOUN

verb·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈvɜːbəlaɪz‖ˈvɜːr-/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to express (something) in words: *He couldn't verbalize his fears.*

verb·al·ly /ˈvɜːbəli‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adv* in spoken words and not in writing

verbal noun /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **gerund**— *n* a noun which describes an action or experience and has the form of a PRESENT PARTICIPLE: *"Building" is a verbal noun in "The building of the bridge was slow work", but simply a noun in "The bank was a tall building".* —compare PRESENT PARTICIPLE

ver·ba·tim /vɜːˈbeɪtɨm‖vɜːr-/ *adj, adv* repeating the actual words exactly: *a verbatim account of the conversation* | *His memory was so good that he could repeat several of Shakespeare's plays verbatim.*

ver·bi·age /ˈvɜːbi-ɪdʒ‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* [U] *fml* too many unnecessary words in speech or writing

ver·bose /vɜːˈbəʊs‖vɜːr-/ *adj fml* using or containing too many words: *a verbose sermon/explanation* —compare VERBAL, VOLUBLE —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness, -bosity** /ˈbɒsɨti‖ˈbɑː-/ *n* [U]

ver·bo·ten /fəˈbəʊtən‖fər-/ *adj Ger* not allowed; forbidden: *Being impolite to grown-ups was absolutely verboten in our household.*

ver·dant /ˈvɜːdənt‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj lit or poet* (of land) covered with freshly growing green plants or grass: *the verdant landscape of spring* —**-dancy** *n* [U]

Ver·di /ˈveədi‖ˈver-/, **Giu·sep·pe** /dʒʊˈzepi/ (1813–1901) an Italian COMPOSER best known for his *Requiem* and for his OPERAS, including *La Traviata, Aida,* and *Rigoletto*

ver·dict /ˈvɜːdɪkt‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* **1** the official decision **a** made by a JURY in a court of law at the end of a trial, esp. about whether the prisoner is guilty or not guilty: *The judge directed the jury to return a verdict of guilty.* | *to fail to reach a verdict* | *a majority verdict of 10 to 2* **b** made by an official or an official body, such as a TRIBUNAL: *The panel will be giving their verdict tomorrow.* | *the coroner's verdict* —see also OPEN VERDICT **2** [**(on)**] *infml* a statement of opinion; judgment or decision given on any matter: *What's your verdict on the film?*

ver·di·gris /ˈvɜːdɨgriːs, -griːs‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* [U] a greenish-blue substance which forms a thin covering on articles of copper or brass as a result of age or wet conditions

ver·dure /ˈvɜːdʒəʳ‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* [U] *lit or poet* (the fresh green colour of) growing grass, plants, trees, etc.

verge[1] /vɜːdʒ‖vɜːrdʒ/ *n* **1** the edge or border, esp. of a road, path, etc.: *She walked along the grass verge, trying not to step into the road.* **2 on the verge of** very near to (the stated condition or action): *She was on the verge of tears.* (=nearly crying) | *scientists on the verge of a major breakthrough*

verge[2] *v*

verge on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to be near to (the stated quality or condition): *Her strange behaviour sometimes verges on madness.* | *very dark grey, verging on black*

ver·ger /ˈvɜːdʒəʳ‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n esp. BrE* a person who looks after the inside of a church, and performs small duties such as showing worshippers where they may sit

Ver·gil /ˈvɜːdʒɨl‖ˈvɜːr-/ VIRGIL

ver·i·fy /ˈverɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] to make certain that (a fact, statement, etc.) is correct or true; CONFIRM: *The prisoner's statement was verified by several witnesses.* | *These details are impossible to verify.* [+*that*] *Before the bank was willing to lend him money, it had to verify that he was the true owner of the house.* —**-fiable** *adj* —**-fication** /ˌverɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

ver·i·ly /ˈverɨli/ *adv bibl or old use* really; truly

ver·i·si·mil·i·tude /ˌverɨsɨˈmɪlɨtjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* the quality of seeming to be true; likeness to reality or real things

ver·i·ta·ble /ˈverɨtəbəl/ *adj* [A] *fml* (used to give force to an expression) that may truly be described as or compared to the stated thing; real: *Thank you for that lovely meal; it was a veritable feast!* —**-bly** *adv*

ver·i·ty /ˈverɨti/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml or lit* an accepted truth; general law or truth on which religious teachings, standards of right behaviour, etc., are based: *one of the eternal verities*

Ver·laine /vəˈleɪn‖vər-/, **Paul** (1844–96) a French poet, known esp. for works such as *Sagesse* and *Romances sans paroles*

Ver·meer /vəˈmɪəʳ‖vər-/, **Jan** /jæn/ or **Jo·han·nes** /jəʊˈhænəs/ (1623–75) a Dutch painter famous for his use of colour and his scenes of the inside rooms of a house, often with the single figure of a woman in them

ver·mi·cel·li /ˌvɜːmɨˈseli, -ˈtʃeli‖ˌvɜːr-/ *n* [U] Italian PASTA (=food made from a mixture of flour and water) in the shape of very thin strings, cooked in boiling water —compare MACARONI, SPAGHETTI, TAGLIATELLE

ver·mic·u·lite /vɜːˈmɪkjʊlaɪt‖vɜːr-/ *n* [U] a type of MICA that is very light and is used for keeping heat inside buildings, growing seeds in, etc.

ver·mi·form ap·pen·dix /ˌvɜːmɪfɔːm əˈpendɪks ‖ ˌvɜːrmɪfɔːrm-/ *n med for* APPENDIX (1)

ver·mil·ion /vəˈmɪljən‖vər-/ *adj, n* [U] (having a) bright reddish-orange colour

ver·min /ˈvɜːmɨn‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* [P] **1** small animals or birds that destroy crops, spoil food, or do other damage, and are difficult to control: *To a farmer, foxes are vermin because they steal and kill chickens.* —compare PEST **2** unpleasant biting insects, such as FLEAS, LICE, etc., that live on people's or animals' bodies, usu. by drinking their blood **3** useless unpleasant people who are a trouble to society: *He thinks all beggars are vermin.*

ver·min·ous /ˈvɜːmɨnəs‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj* **1** full of VERMIN: *the tramp's verminous old coat* **2** *derog* (of a person) very unpleasant; nasty

Ver·mont /vəˈmɒnt‖vərˈmɑːnt/ *written abbrev.* **VT**— a state in the NE of the US. It produces many minerals, MAPLE SYRUP, and attracts many visitors for skiing (SKI), hunting, and fishing. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

ver·mouth /ˈvɜːməθ‖vərˈmuːθ/ *n* [U] a drink made from wine with the addition of bitter or strong-tasting substances from roots and HERBS. It is usu. drunk before a meal or in a COCKTAIL.

ver·nac·u·lar /vəˈnækjʊləʳl‖vər-/ *n* [C;*the*+S] the language spoken in a country or region, esp. as compared with the official language: *When he talked to the local people he* **lapsed into** (=went back to) **the vernacular.** —**vernacular** *adj: The Roman Catholic Church now uses vernacular services instead of Latin ones.*

ver·nal /ˈvɜːnl‖ˈvɜːrnl/ *adj lit or tech* [A] of, like, or appearing in the spring season

Verne /vɜːn‖vɜːrn/, **Jules** /dʒuːlz/ (1828–1905) a French writer who wrote SCIENCE FICTION. His most famous books are *Journey to the Centre of the Earth, Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea,* and *Around the World in Eighty Days.*

ver·ru·ca /vəˈruːkə/ ‖ *usu.* **wart** *AmE*— *n* **-cas** *or* **-cae** /kiː/ a small hard often infectious growth on the skin, usu. on the bottom of the feet

ver·sa /ˈvɜːsə‖-ɜːr-/ see VICE VERSA

Ver·sailles /veəˈsaɪ‖ver-/ a city in N central France, where there is a beautiful palace and its gardens, built for King Louis XIV and now owned by the state. Several peace agreements were signed here, including the one which formally ended the First World War —see also TREATY OF VERSAILLES

ver·sa·tile /ˈvɜːsətaɪl‖ˈvɜːrsətl/ *adj apprec* **1** having many different kinds of skill or ability; easily able to change from one kind of activity to another: *a very versatile performer/campaign strategy* **2** having many different uses: *Nylon is a versatile material.* —**-tility** /ˌvɜːsəˈtɪlɨti‖ˌvɜːr-/ *n* [U]

verse /vɜːs‖vɜːrs/ *n* **1** [U] writing arranged in regular lines, with a pattern of repeated beats as in music, and

often with RHYMES (=words of matching sound) at the end of some lines; language in the form of poetry —compare PROSE; see also BLANK VERSE, FREE VERSE **2** [C] **a** a set of lines of poetry which forms one part of a poem, and usu. has a pattern that is repeated in the other parts: *I learned three verses of the poem.* **b** a set of such lines forming the words to which the tune of a song is sung: *Let's sing the last verse.* —compare CHORUS[1] (1) **3** [C] any of the numbered (groups of) sentences that together form one numbered division (CHAPTER) of a holy book, esp. one of the books of the Bible —see also CHAPTER AND VERSE

versed /vɜːst‖vɜːrst/ *adj* [F+**in**] *fml* possessing a thorough knowledge of or skill in a subject, an art, etc.; experienced: *After ten years as an ambassador, she is* **well versed in** *the arts of diplomacy.*

ver·si·fi·ca·tion /ˌvɜːsʲfʲˈkeɪʃən‖ˌvɜːr-/ *n* [U] *tech* the particular pattern or way in which a poem is written

ver·sion /ˈvɜːʃən‖ˈvɜːrʒən/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a slightly different form, copy, or style of an article: *This dress is a cheaper version of the one we saw in that shop.* **2** one person's account of an event, esp. as compared with that of another person: *The two newspapers gave different versions of what happened.* | *the accepted version of events* | *earlier/later versions* **3** a form of a written or musical work that exists in more than one form: *Did you read the whole book or only the abridged version?* | *an English version* (=translation), *of a German play* —see also AUTHORIZED VERSION, KING JAMES VERSION, REVISED STANDARD VERSION, REVISED VERSION

ver·so /ˈvɜːsəʊ‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj, n* **-sos** [A;C] *tech* (being) a left-hand page of a book: *written on the verso* (*side*) —compare RECTO

ver·sus /ˈvɜːsəs‖ˈvɜːr-/ *prep* against; in opposition to: *The Finance Minister has to weigh up the benefits of tax cuts versus those of increased public spending.* | *It's going to be Mexico versus Holland in the final.*

ver·te·bra /ˈvɜːtʲbrə‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* **-brae** /briː, breɪ/ any of the small hollow bones down the centre of the back which form the BACKBONE —see picture at SKELETON —**-bral** *adj*

ver·te·brate /ˈvɜːtʲbrʲət, -breɪt‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n tech* a living creature which has a BACKBONE: *Fish, birds, and human beings are vertebrates.* —compare INVERTEBRATE — **vertebrate** *adj*

ver·tex /ˈvɜːteks‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* **-texes** *or* **-tices** /tʲsiːz/ [(**of**)] *tech* **1 a** the angle opposite the base of a figure such as a PYRAMID, CONE, TRIANGLE, etc. **b** the meeting point of the two lines of an angle **2** the highest point: *the vertex of an arch*

ver·ti·cal /ˈvɜːtɪkəl‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj* forming an angle of 90 degrees with the level ground, or with a straight line in a figure; upright: *blue and green vertical stripes* | *a vertical line* | *The northern face of the mountain is almost vertical.* | *A* **vertical takeoff** *aircraft is one that can rise straight from the ground.* —compare HORIZONTAL — **~ly** /kli/ *adv*

vertical file /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [usu. S] *AmE* a place in a library where printed materials are kept that do not form part of the regular collection: *We keep pamphlets and news releases in the vertical file.*

ver·tig·i·nous /vɜːˈtɪdʒʲnəs‖vɜːr-/ *adj fml* causing or suffering from vertigo, esp. by being at great height above the ground: *vertiginous heights*

ver·ti·go /ˈvɜːtɪgəʊ‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* [U] a feeling of great unsteadiness, as though one's head were spinning round, often also with a sensation of sickness and faintness, and caused usu. by looking down from a great height: *He suffers from vertigo.*

verve /vɜːv‖vɜːrv/ *n* [U] *apprec* a strong feeling of life, force, and eager enjoyment, expressed through some activity or shown in some form of art: *He's a poor singer, but we had to admire the sheer verve of his performance.*

ve·ry[1] /ˈveri/ *adv* **1** (used for giving force to an expression) especially; to a great degree: *a very good cake* | *a very exciting book* | *It's very warm today.* | *I feel very tired after all that effort.* | *We must remember the very real problems of young people today.* | *The traffic is moving very slowly.* | *She was very nearly killed!* | *Thanks very much.* | *I feel very much better today.* | *His new book's very much the same as his last one.* | *I very much hope you'll be able to come.* | *That was very kind of you.* **2** (used for giving force to superlative adjectives or to **own** or **same**) in the greatest possible degree: *The cake ought to be good — I used the very best ingredients.* | *This is the very last time I offer to help you.* | *He could have warned you he was coming, at the very least.* | *You're a lucky boy to have your very own boat.* | *two accidents in the very same place* **3 not very: a** in no way; exactly the opposite of: *The teacher wasn't very pleased* (=was angry) *when he found a dead mouse on his desk.* **b** only slightly; to a small degree: *"Was the play interesting?" "Not very."* —see also **very good** (GOOD[1] (31)), **very well** (WELL[1] (8)); see MOST (USAGE), QUITE (USAGE)

very[2] *adj* [A] (used for giving force to an expression) actual: *This is the very pen he used when he was writing the book. He used this very pen.* | *I'll go this very minute.* (=at once) | *They say he died in that very bed.* | *I found it at the very bottom* (=right at the bottom) *of the box.* | *She died at the very height of her fame.* | *The very thought of* (=even thinking about) *that terrible meal makes me feel sick.* | *Of course you can't go on your own.* **The very idea!** (=expresses surprise or shock) | *This little tool is* **the very thing** *for turning stiff taps.* (=it does it very well)

very high fre·quen·cy /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) see VHF

Very light /ˈvɪəri laɪt‖ˌveri ˈlaɪt, ˌvɪəri-/ *n* (a bright, sometimes coloured, light produced by) a special sort of burning bullet that is fired high into the air from a small gun (**Very pistol**), used esp. as a signal that someone is in danger and needs help

Very Rev·e·rend /ˌveri ˈrevərənd◂/ *n, adj* a title of respect for certain religious officials, namely a DEAN (1), a former MODERATOR (2), or a Scottish university PRINCIPAL[2] (1) who happens to be a church minister

ves·i·cle /ˈvesɪkəl/ *n med* a small hollow part in an organ or other bodily part, or a small swelling on the skin, usu. filled with liquid

ve·sic·u·lar /vʲˈsɪkjʊlərˠ/ *adj med* of or marked by the formation of vesicles

ves·pers /ˈvespəz‖-ərz/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] (*often cap.*) (in some branches of the Christian church) the evening service, esp. EVENSONG —compare COMPLINE, EVENSONG

Ves·puc·ci /veˈspuːtʃi/, **A·mer·i·go** /æˈmeriːgəʊ/ (1454–1512) an Italian sailor and EXPLORER, who travelled to the West Indies and South America and discovered the mouth of the Amazon river

ves·sel /ˈvesəl/ *n* **1** *fml* a ship or large boat, esp. of the stated kind: *a French naval vessel in the harbour.* | *a fishing vessel* | *a motor vessel* **2** *fml or old use* a usu. round container, such as a pot, cup, or barrel, used esp. for holding liquids: *a drinking vessel* **3** *tech* a tube, such as a VEIN, that carries blood or other liquid through the body, or plant juice (SAP) through a plant —see also BLOOD VESSEL

▷ USAGE **Vessel** meaning "ship" is formal or literary. The more ordinary words are **ship** or **boat.** —see also BOAT (USAGE)◁

vest[1] /vest/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **undershirt** *AmE*— a short undergarment, usu. without coverings for the arms, worn on the upper part of the body: *a string vest* **2** a similar garment worn to protect the body: *The policeman survived because of his bulletproof vest.* **3** *AmE for* WAISTCOAT

vest[2] *v*

vest in *phr v* [T] *fml* **1** [*usu. pass.*] (**vest** sthg. **in** sbdy.) to give the official and legal right to possess or use (power, property, etc.) to: *In most countries the right to make new laws is vested in the people's representatives.* **2** [*no pass.*] (**vest in** sbdy./sthg.) (of power, property, etc.) to belong by right to: *In former times this power vested in the Church.*

vest sbdy. **with** sthg. *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] *fml* to give (someone) the official and legal right to possess or use (power, property, etc.)

ves·tal vir·gin /ˌvestl ˈvɜːdʒʲn‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **1** any of the young unmarried women whose duty was to keep the holy fire always burning in the temple of Vesta, the Roman goddess of the house **2** *infml derog* a woman who will not have sex

vested in·terest /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [(**in**)] *often derog* a share or right already held in something, that is of advantage to the holder: *It was difficult to end the system of slavery because many powerful people had a vested interest in keeping it.*

vested in·terests /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [P] *usu. derog* all the people having a vested interest in a particular business or situation, which they are unwilling to lose even for the good of the public: *It would be impossible to make a law forbidding smoking, because of the powerful vested interests who own the tobacco companies.*

ves·ti·bule /ˈvestɨbjuːl/ *n* **1** *fml* a wide passage or small room just inside the outer door of a (public) building through which all other rooms are reached; entrance hall **2** *AmE* an enclosed passage at each end of a railway carriage which connects it with the next carriage

ves·tige /ˈvestɪdʒ/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a sign, mark, track, or other proof that someone or something formerly existed or was present: *These upright stones are the vestiges of some ancient religion.* | *The new act of parliament removed the last vestiges of royal power.* **2** *fml* (*usu. in negatives*) (of a quality, etc.) the smallest possible amount: *There's not a vestige of truth in the witness's statement.* (=it is completely untrue)

ves·ti·gi·al /veˈstɪdʒiəl, -dʒəl/ *adj* **1** *fml* that still remains, even though most has gone: *The Crown retains some vestigial power.* **2** *tech* being a limb or organ that either has never developed fully or has stopped being used and nearly disappeared: *Some snakes have vestigial legs.* —~**ly** *adv*

vest·ment /ˈvestmənt/ *n* [*often pl.*] *fml* a ceremonial garment, esp. as worn by priests for church services

ves·try /ˈvestri/ *n* **1** also **sacristy**— a small room in a church where holy cups and plates, official records, etc., are stored, and where the priest and church singers put on their ceremonial clothes **2** a room connected with a church building, used for prayer meetings, church business, etc.

ves·ture /ˈvestʃəʳ/ *n* [U] *lit or poet* clothing

Ve·su·vi·us /vɨˈsuːviəs/ also **Mount Vesuvius, Vesuvio** /-viəʊ/— an active VOLCANO in SE Italy. When Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, it buried the Roman city of Pompeii.

vet[1] /vet/ also **vet·e·ri·na·ry sur·geon** /ˌ····· ˈ··/ *BrE fml* ‖ **veterinarian** /ˌvetərɨˈneəriən/*AmE*— *n* a person trained in the medical care and treatment of sick animals: *I took my dog to the vet|to the vet's.* (=the vet's SURGERY)

vet[2] *v* **-tt-** [T] *infml, esp. BrE* to examine carefully for correctness, past record, etc.: *The recruits were thoroughly vetted before they were allowed into the secret service.*

vet[3] *n infml for* VETERAN[2]: *a Vietnam vet*

vetch /vetʃ/ *n* a beanlike climbing plant

vet·e·ran[1] /ˈvetərən/ *n, adj* [C;A] **1** [(**of**)] someone who in the past has had experience in the stated form of activity, esp. in war: *My grandfather is a veteran of the Second World War.* —compare EX-SERVICEMAN **2** (a person) who has had long experience in some form of activity: *At the age of 12 the boy was already a veteran traveller, having flown all over the world with his father.* | *veteran politicians* **3** (a thing) that has grown old with long use: *Every year a race is held in England for veteran cars.* (=those made before 1905) | *This sewing machine is a real veteran.* —compare VINTAGE[2] (4)

veteran[2] also **vet** *infml*— *n AmE* someone, young or old, who has served in the armed forces, esp. during a war

Veterans Af·fairs /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ also **VA, Veterans Ad·min·i·stra·tion** /ˈ··· ···ˌ··/— [*the*] an American government organization which deals with things concerning former members of the armed forces, such as health care, education, and PENSIONS (=money given to someone when they stop working)

Veterans Day /ˈ··· ·/ November 11th, when people in the US and Canada remember the end of fighting in the two World Wars —compare REMEMBRANCE DAY

Veterans of For·eign Wars /ˌ··· · ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **VFW**— an American organization whose members have fought in wars abroad and which sometimes acts as a PRESSURE GROUP on questions of American defence

vet·e·ri·nar·i·an /ˌvetərɨˈneəriən/ *n AmE* a VET[1]

vet·e·ri·na·ry /ˈvetərɨnəri‖-neri/ *adj* [A] *tech* connected with the medical care and treatment of sick animals, esp. farm animals and pets: *veterinary science* —see also VET[1]

ve·to[1] /ˈviːtəʊ/ *n* **-toes** [C (**on**);U] (a) refusal to give permission for something, or to allow something to be done; (act of) forbidding something completely: *the threat of a presidential veto on this legislation* | *The French exercised their power of|right of veto in the Security Council to prevent the resolution being passed.* | *I've put a veto on football in the garden in case the children break any more windows.*

veto[2] *v* **-toed;** *present participle* **-toing** [T] to prevent or forbid (some action); refuse to allow (something): *The president last week vetoed a cereal price cut.*

vex /veks/ *v* [T] *old-fash* **1** to displease (someone); cause to feel angry or bad-tempered **2** [*often pass.*] to trouble (someone) continually; keep in discomfort or without rest

vex·a·tion /vekˈseɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the feeling, fact, or state of being vexed; displeasure **2** [C *often pl.*] *old-fash* something that vexes one

vex·a·tious /vekˈseɪʃəs/ *adj old-fash* vexing; displeasing; troublesome —~**ly** *adv*

vexed ques·tion /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* something that has caused much fierce argument and is difficult to decide; a troublesome matter or question: *the vexed question of how to deal with hunger-strikers*

V-for·ma·tion /ˈviː fɔːˌmeɪʃən ‖ -fɔːr-/ *n* the shape of a large number of birds flying together like the letter "V"

VFW /ˌviː ef ˈdʌbəljuː/ *n* VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VHF /ˌviː eɪtʃ ˈef/ *n* [U] very high frequency; (the sending out of radio waves at) the rate of 30,000,000 to 300,000,000 HERTZ, producing good sound quality: *This radio station broadcasts only on VHF.* | *a VHF radio* —compare UHF

vi·a /ˈvaɪə‖ˈviːə/ *prep* **1** travelling or sent through (a place) on the way: *We flew to Athens via Paris.* **2** by means of; using: *I sent a message to Mary via her sister.*

vi·a·ble /ˈvaɪəbəl/ *adj* **1** able to succeed in operation; FEASIBLE: *The scheme is not economically viable.* **2** *tech* able to continue to exist as or develop into a living thing: *viable births* —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˌvaɪəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U] : *commercial viability* | *the long-term financial viability of the company*

vi·a·duct /ˈvaɪədʌkt/ *n* a long high bridge which carries a road or railway line across a valley

vi·al /ˈvaɪəl/ *n* a PHIAL

vi·ands /ˈvaɪəndz/ *n* [P] *old use* food

vibes /vaɪbz/ *n* **vibes** *infml* **1** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a vibraphone **2** [P] VIBRATIONS (2): *good|bad|strange vibes*

vi·brant /ˈvaɪbrənt/ *adj* **1** (of colour or light) bright and strong **2** alive; forceful; powerful and exciting: *a city vibrant with life* | *a youthful vibrant voice* —~**ly** *adv* —**brancy** *n* [U]

vi·bra·phone /ˈvaɪbrəfəʊn/ *n* a musical instrument consisting of a set of metal bars set in a frame, which are struck to produce notes that are made to vibrate

vi·brate /vaɪˈbreɪt‖ˈvaɪbreɪt/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) shake continuously and very quickly with a fine slight movement that may often be felt or heard rather than seen: *Tom's heavy footsteps upstairs made the old house vibrate.* | *The air in the desert seemed to vibrate in the midday heat.* | *The hammers strike the piano strings and vibrate them.* | (fig.) *At night, the whole city vibrates with life.*

vi·bra·tion /vaɪˈbreɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) slight continuous shaky movement: *You can feel the vibrations when a plane flies over our house.* **2** [C *usu. pl.*] also **vibes**— *sl* an EMOTIONAL feeling or influence that can be felt as coming from a person or among a group; a word used esp. by younger people in the late 1960s and 1970s: *This disco's got fantastic vibes!*

vi·bra·to /vɪˈbrɑːtəʊ/ *n* **-tos** *tech* (in music) a slightly shaking effect given to the sound of the voice, or of stringed or wind instruments, for added expressiveness

vi·brat·or /vaɪˈbreɪtəʳ‖ˈvaɪbreɪtər/ *n* an instrument used for producing VIBRATIONS, esp. an electrical apparatus used on the body to produce pleasing (esp. sexual) sensations

vic·ar /ˈvɪkəʳ/ *n* **1** (in the Church of England) a priest in charge of an area (PARISH). In advertisements, television programmes, etc., vicars are often shown as polite, cheerful, and keen to be helpful, but also as UNWORLDLY (=not experienced in the ways of society) and easily shocked: *Good morning, vicar!* —compare RECTOR (1) **2** (in the Roman Catholic Church) a representative: *The Pope is known as the* **vicar of Christ.**

vic·ar·age /ˈvɪkərɪdʒ/ *n* the house of a VICAR (1)

vi·car·i·ous /vɪˈkeəriəs‖vaɪ-/ *adj* **1** experienced by the imagination through watching or reading about other people; indirect **2** *fml* experienced for other people: *vicarious sufferings* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

vice[1] /vaɪs/ *n* **1** [C;U] (any particular kind of) evil behaviour or living, esp. in sexual practices, taking of harmful drugs, uncontrolled drinking habits, etc.: *She was arrested by the police* **vice squad** *for prostitution.* | *The police have smashed a* **vice ring** (=criminal group) *in Chicago.* **2** [C;U] (an example of) badness of character: *the vice of greed|pride* —opposite **virtue** **3** [C] *infml, often humor* a bad habit: *"Would you like a whisky?" "No, thanks; alcohol isn't one of my vices!"*

vice[2] *esp. BrE* ‖ **vise** *AmE*— *n* a tool with metal jaws that can be tightened, used for holding something firmly so that it can be worked on with both hands

vice- see WORD FORMATION

vice-chan·cel·lor /ˌ· ˈ···◂/ *n* **1** (*often cap.* V *and* C) (in Britain) the officer who actually controls the affairs of a university; the real head of a university (since the CHANCELLOR (2) is appointed only as an honour) **2** (*often cap.* V *and* C) (in the US) the officer next in rank to the head (CHANCELLOR) of a university

vice·like /ˈvaɪs-laɪk/ *adj* very firm; giving no chance of movement or escape: *He held me in a* **vicelike grip**.

vice pres·i·dent /ˌ· ˈ···◂/ *n* **1** an officer next in rank to the president who usu. serves as president if the president becomes unable to serve, e.g. because of illness. In the US, the vice president is also responsible for acting as the president of the Senate: *Vice president Dan Quayle* **2** *AmE* a person responsible for a particular area of a company: *our executive vice president for marketing*

vice·re·gal /vaɪsˈriːgəl/ *adj* of a viceroy

vice·reine /vaɪsˈreɪn‖ˈvaɪsreɪn/ *n* the wife of a viceroy

vice·roy /ˈvaɪsrɔɪ/ *n* a king's or queen's representative ruling for them in another country: *When Britain ruled India, the British king was represented there by a viceroy.*

Vice Squad /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] the division of the police force in either Britain or the US which deals with sexual and drug-related offences

vice ver·sa /ˌvaɪs ˈvɜːsə, ˌvaɪsi-‖-ɜːr-/ *adv Lat* in the opposite way from that just stated: *When she wants to go out, he wants to stay in, and vice versa.* (=when he wants to go out, she wants to stay in)

Vi·chy /ˈviːʃi/ a city in S central France where the government of France was during the Second World War. The authority of the **Vichy government** was not accepted by many French people because it followed the rules and laws given to it by the Germans who had taken control of France. When people discuss this period of France's history they sometimes call the country **Vichy France.** —see also FREE FRENCH, PETAIN

vi·cin·i·ty /vəˈsɪnəti/ *n* **1** [**in**+(*the*) U (**of**)] the surroundings; area very near to or around the stated place; neighbourhood: *"Are there any shops in this vicinity?"* (=near here) | *All the ships in the vicinity of the crash joined in the search for survivors.* **2** [U (**of, to**)] *fml* nearness: *the house's vicinity to the station* **3 in the vicinity of** *pomp* about: *His income is in the vicinity of £15,000 a year.*

vi·cious /ˈvɪʃəs/ *adj* **1** cruel; having or showing hate and the desire to hurt: *He gave the dog a vicious blow with his stick.* | *a vicious attack* **2** dangerous; able or likely to cause severe hurt: *a vicious-looking knife* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

vicious cir·cle /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a set of events in which cause and effect follow each other until this results in a return to the first usu. undesirable or unpleasant position and the whole matter begins again: *"Crime leads to prison, which leads to unemployment, which leads to crime. It's a vicious circle."*

vi·cis·si·tudes /vəˈsɪsətjuːdz‖-tuːdz/ *n* [P] *fml* continual changes, esp. from good to bad, in one's nature, condition of life, etc.: *the vicissitudes of married life|of the oil industry*

Vicks·burg /ˈvɪksbɜːg‖-bɜːrg/ a city in Mississippi, US, where an important battle was fought during the Civil War

vic·tim /ˈvɪktəm/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a person, animal, or thing that suffers pain, death, harm, destruction, etc., as a result of other people's actions, or of illness, bad luck, etc.: *Four people were killed in the explosion, but police have not yet named the victims.* | *The murderer had cut his victim's throat.* | *That beautiful old building was knocked down last year, a victim of the council's desire for modern planning.* | *Thousands of trees have* **fallen victim to** (=suffered from) *this disease.* **2** a person or animal killed and offered as a SACRIFICE (=gift) to a god: *sacrificial victims*

vic·tim·ize ‖ also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈvɪktəmaɪz/ *v* [T] to cause (someone) to suffer unfairly: *He claimed that in sacking him because of his political views, they'd victimized him.* —**-ization** /ˌvɪktəmaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-mə-/ *n* [U]: *racial victimization*

victimless crime /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* a crime in which no one suffers, usu. because the people involved have agreed to be involved: *Prostitution is often called a victimless crime because both parties consent to the action taken.*

vic·tor /ˈvɪktəʳ/ *n esp. fml, lit, or pomp* a winner in battle, or in a race, game, competition, or other kind of struggle —see also VICTORIOUS

Vic·to·ri·a[1] /vɪkˈtɔːriə/ **1** a large train station in central London: *Trains to Brighton leave from Victoria.* —see colour map on page 817 **2** the capital city of the Canadian PROVINCE (1) of British Columbia, known for its reasonable winter weather and British influences **3** a state in SE Australia, which is very industrialized and has Melbourne as its capital city

Victoria[2]**, Lake** the largest lake in Africa, on the borders of Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya

Victoria[3]**, Queen** (1819–1901) queen of Great Britain and Ireland, EMPRESS of India and granddaughter of **George III**. Queen Victoria was the MONARCH who ruled for the longest period in English history, during which there was great industrial advancement, an EXPANSION in the **British Empire**, and an increase in the popularity of the MONARCHY. Victoria's husband **Prince Albert** was an important influence on her and the marriages of their nine children connected them with many royal families in Europe. Victoria is supposed to have said "We are not amused".

Queen Victoria



Victoria and Al·bert Mu·se·um /·ˌ··· · ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ also **V & A**— [*the*] a MUSEUM in London which includes valuable objects of all styles and periods, such as paintings, Indian works of art, glass, jewellery, and TEXTILES: *an exhibition of Japanese prints at the V & A*

Victoria Cross /·ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* see VC

Victoria Day /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ a public holiday held in May in Canada

Victoria Falls /·ˌ··· ˈ·/ a WATERFALL on the Zambezi River between Zimbabwe and Zambia, which is a mile wide and falls four hundred feet

Vic·to·ri·an[1] /vɪkˈtɔːriən/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of, made in, or living in the time when Queen Victoria ruled (1837–1901): *Victorian women* **2** describing the style of ARCHITECTURE of the time when Queen Victoria ruled Britain. Victorian buildings are typically built in red brick and are quite highly decorated. —see colour picture on page 227 **3** *usu. derog* like the behaviour, moral standards, etc., of middle-class society in the time of Queen Victoria, esp. being or pretending to be very respectable, religious, pure, etc.: *Victorian prudery* | *Victorian values*

Victorian[2] *n* any English person living in the time when Queen Victoria ruled (1837–1901): *Florence Nightingale and William Gladstone were famous Victorians.*

Vic·to·ri·a·na /vɪkˌtɔːriˈɑːnə/ *n* [P] collectable things (e.g. DOLLS, lamps, spoons, etc.) from the Victorian age: *I found an antique shop full of Victoriana.*

victoria plum /·ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* a large, sweet, dark red PLUM

vic·to·ri·ous /vɪkˈtɔːriəs/ *adj* **1** [(**in, over**)] that has won: *the victorious team* **2** [A] of or showing victory: *a victorious shout* —see also VICTOR —~**ly** *adv*

vic·to·ry /ˈvɪktəri/ *n* [C;U (**in, over**)] (an example of) the act of winning or state of having won, in war or in any kind of struggle: *Both sides were claiming victory last night.* | *The captain led his team to victory.* | *He only managed a narrow victory in the election; he won by 23 votes.* | *The early settlement of the strike was hailed as a victory for common sense.* | *to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat* (=to win when it seemed that one would lose) | *a resounding|overwhelming victory* | *to win an easy|decisive|clear-cut victory* | *a sign ificant propaganda victory* | *to hold a victory rally* —opposite **defeat**; see also PYRRHIC VICTORY

Victory, The also **HMS Victory**— Admiral Nelson's own ship at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805, now preserved at Portsmouth in S England

victory gar·den /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a vegetable garden grown during the Second World War so that there would be more food available to send abroad

vict·ual /ˈvɪtl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE*— *tech* **1** [T] to supply (usu. a large number of people) with food **2** [I] to take in and store supplies of food and drink —see also LICENSED VICTUALLER

vict·uals /ˈvɪtlz/ *n* [P] *old use or dial* (supplies of) food and drink

vi·cu·ña, -na /vɪˈkjuːnə‖vɪˈkuː-/ *n* **1** [C] a large South American animal, related to the LLAMA, from which soft wool of very good quality is obtained **2** [U] the cloth made from this wool: *a vicuña coat*

vi·de /ˈvaɪdi, ˈviːdi/ *v* [T *only imperative*] *Lat fml* (used for telling a reader where to find more about the subject) see; look at

vi·de·li·cet /vɪˈdiːlɪset, -ket‖-ˈde-/ *adv Lat, fml for* VIZ.

vid·e·o[1] /ˈvɪdiəʊ/ *adj* [A] **1** *tech* connected with or used in the showing of pictures by television: *video signals* — compare AUDIO and see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** using videotape: *a video recording*

video[2] *n* **-os** **1 a** [C;U] (a) videotape recording: *They showed a video of "Gone with the Wind".* | *I've got it on video.* | *a video shop* **b** [C] *infml* a videotape: *This video's full up; have we got any blank ones?* **2** [C] *esp. BrE* also **video cas·sette re·cor·der** /ˌ··· ·ˈ· ·ˌ··/, **vid·e·o·re·cor·der** /ˈvɪdiəʊriˌkɔːdəʳ‖-ɔːr-/, **vid·e·o·tape re·cor·der** /ˈ···· ·ˌ··/ *fml* a machine for making videotape recordings and playing them back: *Set the video to go on at 8.00.*

video[3] *esp. BrE* ‖ **tape** *esp. AmE*— *v* **-oed**; *present participle* **-oing** [T] to videotape: *Could you video the documentary for me?*

video ar·cade /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ *n AmE* a place where there are many video games which are started by putting money in them

vid·e·o·disc /ˈvɪdiəʊˌdɪsk/ *n* a round piece of plastic, like a record, from which recorded pictures can be played back in the same way as from a videotape

video game /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a game played by pushing buttons which move parts of the pictures on the SCREEN of a video

vid·e·o nas·ty /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n BrE infml* a video film including scenes of extremely unpleasant violence

vid·e·o·tape[1] /ˈvɪdiəʊteɪp/ also **video cas·sette** /ˌ··· ·ˈ·/, **tape** *infml*, **video** *infml*— *n* [C;U] (a container holding a long narrow band of) MAGNETIC material on which pictures, e.g. a television show, are recorded and from which they can be played back

videotape[2] also **tape** *infml*— *v* [T] to make a recording of (a television show) on videotape

vie /vaɪ/ *v* **vied**; *present participle* **vying** [I+*adv|prep*, esp. **with, for**] to compete (with someone) (for something): *They are vying for the lead.* [+*to-v*] *The shipping companies vied with each other to make the fastest Atlantic crossing.*

Vi·en·na /viˈenə/ the capital city of Austria, famous as a music and CULTURAL centre —see also CONGRESS OF VIENNA —**Viennese** /ˌviːəˈniːz◂/ *n, adj*

Viet Cong /ˌvjet ˈkɒŋ‖-ˈkɑːŋ/ also **Vietcong**— *n* (a member of) a group of GUERRILLAS (=unofficial soldiers) supported by the COMMUNIST government of North Vietnam during the Vietnam War

Viet·nam /ˌvjetˈnæm◂‖-ˈnɑːm/ a country in SE Asia, bordered by Cambodia, Laos, China, and the South China sea; capital Hanoi; population 65,682,000 (1989)

Viet·na·mese /ˌvjetnəˈmiːz◂/ *n* **1** [*the* + P] people from Vietnam **2** [U] the language of Vietnam —**Vietnamese** *adj*: *She's Vietnamese.* | *a Vietnamese restaurant*

Vietnam Vet·e·rans Me·mo·ri·al /ˌ·· ˈ··· ·ˌ···/ also **Vietnam Memorial** /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/— [*the*] a structure of polished black stone in the shape of a "V" which is sunk into the ground in the park area near the White House and the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. The names of all the soldiers killed in the Vietnam War are on the stone walls.

Vietnam War /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Vietnam**— [*the*] (1954–75) a long CIVIL WAR in Vietnam between the North and the South. The government of the South, in SAIGON, was helped by the US and other countries to fight against the VIET CONG, GUERRILLAS (=unofficial soldiers) who were supported by the COMMUNIST government of the North. The South was unsuccessful even with US help.Many people in the West associate the war in Vietnam with the strong public protests against it. While half a million American soldiers were fighting in Vietnam, **protest marches** were common at home. **Protest songs** included the words, "hell no, we won't go!" and the saying, "make love, not war" became popular. Some young men refused to go to war for moral reasons. While some were allowed to become legal CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS, others, called DRAFT DODGERS, either left the country or went to jail in protest. Many Americans protested when they saw horrific pictures of the war dead shown on television. Others objected that the soldiers who were DRAFTED (=made to go to war) were often poor or black, while wealthier whites could find ways to avoid the draft.When President Nixon finally brought the American forces home in 1973, they were not cheered in the streets for their courage, and they were sometimes treated badly by people who were against the war.Many more people now believe that the US should never have entered the war at all, for both moral and military reasons. Others still believe that the US could have helped the South to win. —see also BOAT PEOPLE, KENT STATE, MY LAI MASSACRE, VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

view[1] /vjuː/ *n* **1** [U] ability to see or be seen from a particular place; sight: *My view of the stage was blocked by the hat of the woman sitting in front of me.* | *The car turned the corner and was lost to our view|passed out of view.* (=could not be seen any more) | *The valley was hidden from view in the mist.* | *When we reached the top of the mountain, a wide plain came into view* (=could be seen)|*we came in view of* (=were able to see) *a wide plain below.* | *He fell off his horse* **in full view** *of all the television cameras.* (=seen clearly by all of them) | *There was no shelter* **within view**. (=that could be seen) | *The camera gave us a* **bird's eye view** *of the golf course.* (=showed it clearly from high above) **2** [C (**of**)] **a** something seen from a particular place, esp. a stretch of pleasant country; a scene: *The only view from my bedroom window is of some factory chimneys.* | *I'd like a room with a view* (=a good view), *please.* | *a marvellous|wonderful view* **b** a picture or photograph of scenery, a building, etc.: *a painter of sea views* —see SCENERY (USAGE) **3** [S (**of**)] a special chance to see or examine someone or something: *If we stand at this window, we'll get a better view (of the procession).* | (fig.) *The President will get an inside view of the problems involved when he visits a nuclear power plant tomorrow.* **4** [C (**about, on**)] a personal opinion, belief, idea, etc., about something: *What are your views on free university education?* | *He holds strong views about* (=feels strongly either for or against) *trade unions.* [+*that*] *He expressed|reiterated the view that he was a fool.* | **In my view,** *he's a fool.* | *We weren't very enthusiastic about it, but we agreed to* **fall in with his views.** (=do as he wished) | *She* **takes a dim|poor view of** (=thinks unfavourably of) *her son's recent behaviour.* | *He's got a rather limited* **world view**. (=he sees the world, life, etc., in a very narrow way) **5** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] an act or manner of seeing, considering, examining, etc.: *The book offers a rather sentimental view of literature in the 19th century.* [+*that*] | *I take|share|strongly support the view that we should put less money into nuclear weapons.* | *a widely-held view which was confirmed by later events* | *the paper's rather jaundiced view of the government* | *the feminist view of this question* **6 in view** *fml* already planned or suggested: *He wants to find work, but he has nothing particular in view.* **7 in view of** considering; taking into consideration: *In view of his youth, the police have decided not to*

press charges. **8 keep someone/something in view** to remember someone or something as a possibility or for future consideration if a favourable chance comes **9 on view** being shown to the public; offered to be seen and examined: *Her paintings are on view at the Hayward Gallery.* **10 take the ˈlong view (of something)** not to think only of the results which will follow at once from some action, but also of its effects in the more distant future **11 with a view to** *rather fml* with the intention of; in order to —see also POINT OF VIEW

view[2] *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **as, with**] to consider; regard; think about: *I view his action as a breach of trust.* | *They viewed the future with some alarm.* | *The audience seemed to enjoy the show, but viewed from a theatrical standpoint, it was a disaster.* **2** [T] *esp. tech* to examine; look at thoroughly: *Several possible buyers have come to view the house.* **3** [I;T] *tech* to watch (esp. television): *The* **viewing figures** *for this programme have been poor.* (=not many people have watched it)

view·er /ˈvjuːəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who watches or is watching esp. television: *Angry viewers have written in to complain.* | *Regular viewers will remember that a few weeks ago...* | *This programme is for our younger viewers.* (=children) —compare LISTENER **2** an apparatus for looking at transparent colour photographs: *a slide viewer*

view·find·er /ˈvjuːˌfaɪndəʳ/ *n* an apparatus on a camera, which shows a small picture of what is to be photographed —see picture at CAMERA

view·point /ˈvjuːpɔɪnt/ *n* a POINT OF VIEW

vig·il /ˈvɪdʒɨl/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) remaining watchful for some purpose, esp. while staying awake during the night: *She kept an all-night vigil by the sick woman's bedside.* | *his lonely vigil*

vig·i·lance /ˈvɪdʒɨləns/ *n* [U] *fml* watchful care; continual attentiveness: *Thanks to their constant vigilance, a crisis was averted.*

vigilance com·mit·tee /ˈ··· ·ˌ··/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] *AmE* a group of vigilantes

vig·i·lant /ˈvɪdʒɨlənt/ *adj fml* continually watchful or on guard; always prepared for possible danger: *The police said the public should remain vigilant.* —~**ly** *adv*

vig·i·lan·te /ˌvɪdʒɨˈlænti/ *n sometimes derog* a person, esp. a member of an unofficial organization, who tries by unofficial means to keep order and punish crime in an area where an official body either does not exist or does not work effectively: *vigilantes on the New York subway* | *a vigilante group* —see also VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

vi·gnette /vɪˈnjet/ *n* **1** a small drawing or pattern without a border, set into a book, esp. at the beginning or end of a CHAPTER **2** a short effective written description of a character or scene

vig·our *BrE* ‖ **-or** *AmE* /ˈvɪgəʳ/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* active strength or force of mind or body; ENERGY: *For a man of seventy he still has surprising vigour.* | *Inspired by what she had said, he attacked the problem with renewed vigour.* —**vigorous** *adj*: *The minister made a vigorous defence of the government's policies.* | *These tomato plants are very vigorous.* (=growing strongly and healthily) —**vigorously** *adv*

Vikings



Vi·king /ˈvaɪkɪŋ/ *n* a man belonging to a race of Scandinavian people who attacked, and sometimes settled along, the coasts of northern and western Europe from the 8th to the 10th centuries. The Vikings are known for their skill in building ships and their sense of adventure. In pictures, Vikings are usu. shown wearing HELMETS with horns on them. —see picture at LONGSHIP —**Viking** *adj*: *Viking ships*

vile /vaɪl/ *adj* **1** *fml* shameful and evil; DESPICABLE: *a vile slander* **2** *infml* very bad, nasty, or unpleasant: *She has a vile temper.* | *This food is vile!* —~**ly** /ˈvaɪl-li/ *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

vil·i·fy /ˈvɪlɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to say bad things about (someone or something) without good cause, esp. in order to influence others unfavourably —**-fication** /ˌvɪlɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

vil·la /ˈvɪlə/ *n* **1** a pleasant country house in its own garden, often used for only part of the year for holidays, esp. in southern Europe: *We're renting a villa in the south of France for the summer.* **2** (*often cap. as part of the name of a house*) *BrE* a large house on the edge of a town, usu. with a garden and usu. built before 1914: *South Villa* | *fine old 19th-century villas* **3** a large ancient Roman country house with the buildings and (farm)land belonging to it

Vil·la /ˈviːə/, **Pan·cho** /ˈpæntʃəʊ‖ˈpɑː-/ (about 1878–1923) a Mexican leader of a REVOLUTION against the Mexico government

vil·lage /ˈvɪlɪdʒ/ *n* **1** a collection of houses and other buildings, such as a church, school, PUB, and one or more shops, in a country area, smaller than a town: *the village pub* | *village life* | *in the tiny village of Debden in Essex* —compare CITY, TOWN; see also SMALL TOWN **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] all the people who live in such a place: *The whole village turned out to the baker's funeral.*

village green



village green /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* an area of grass in the centre of an English village for the use of all the people who live there. People often think of a game of cricket on the village green in the summer as being a very TRADITIONAL English scene.

village id·i·ot /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a STEREOTYPE of a very stupid person, usu. a man, living in a village. He talks and behaves like a child, knows nothing of the modern world, and is generally treated kindly by the other people in the village. —compare YOKEL

vil·lag·er /ˈvɪlɪdʒəʳ/ *n* a person who lives in a village

Village Voice /ˈ·· ˌ·/, **The** a weekly US newspaper printed in Greenwich Village in New York, known esp. for news about ALTERNATIVE[1] (3) entertainment —see also extra information on page 896

vil·lain /ˈvɪlən/ *n* **1** (in old plays, films, and stories) a man who is the (or a) main bad character: *The villain carried off the young heroine and tied her to the railway line.* —opposite **hero** **2** *BrE infml, esp. humor* a criminal: *Policemen don't spend all their time chasing villains, you know!* **3** *infml* a troublesome young person: *Stop eating all her sweets, you young villain!* **4 the ˈvillain of the piece** *infml, often humor* the person or thing to be blamed; the one that has caused all the trouble on some occasion

vil·lain·ous /ˈvɪlənəs/ *adj esp. lit* evil; threatening great harm: *He was brandishing a villainous-looking knife.*

vil·lain·y /ˈvɪləni/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* evil or wicked behaviour

vil·lein /ˈvɪlɨn, ˈvɪleɪn/ *n* a poor land worker in Europe in the Middle Ages who was given a small amount of land of his own in return for work on the land of a large landowner

vim /vɪm/ *n* [U] *old-fash infml* cheerful forcefulness; ENERGY: *Try and put a bit more* **vim (and vigour)** *into your performance!*

vin·ai·grette /ˌvɪnɨˈgret, ˌvɪneɪ-/ *n* [U] a sharp-tasting mixture of oil, VINEGAR, salt, pepper, etc., used esp. on SALADS

Vinci see LEONARDO DA VINCI

vin·di·cate /ˈvɪndɨkeɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to show that charges made against (someone or something) are untrue; free from blame: *The report of the committee of enquiry completely vindicates him.* **2** to prove that (something) is true or right; JUSTIFY: *The success of your operation completely vindicates my faith in the doctor.* —**cation** /ˌvɪndɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [S;U (**of**)]

vin·dic·tive /vɪnˈdɪktɪv/ *adj* extremely unwilling to forgive; having or showing the desire to harm someone who has harmed you: *I don't like Kevin – he's got a nasty vindictive streak in him.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

vine /vaɪn/ *n* **1** also **grapevine**– a climbing plant with a woody stem that produces bunches of juicy green or purple fruit (GRAPES) **2** *tech* any creeping or climbing plant with thin twisting stems, such as the IVY, the CUCUMBER, the MELON, etc.

vine fruit /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] fruit such as GRAPES which are grown on vines

vin·e·gar /ˈvɪnɪgəʳ/ *n* [U] an acid-tasting liquid made usu. from MALT or sour wine, used in preparing and preserving vegetables, for putting on food, etc.

vin·e·gar·y /ˈvɪnɪgəri/ *adj* **1** of or like vinegar; very sour: *This wine has a vinegary taste.* **2** unkind; bitter; sharp-tempered: *She has a vinegary tongue.* (=says unkind things)

vine·yard /ˈvɪnjəd‖-jərd/ *n* a piece of land planted with VINES for wine production

vi·no /ˈviːnəʊ/ *n* [U] *infml for* wine

vi·nous /ˈvaɪnəs/ *adj fml, tech, or humor* of, like, caused by, or coloured like wine: *sounds of vinous laughter*

vin·tage[1] /ˈvɪntɪdʒ/ *n* **1** a particular year in which a wine is made: *This wine is of the 1961 vintage.* | *a very good vintage* **2** [*usu. sing.*] *tech* the yearly gathering of GRAPES in an area and the making of new wine from them

vintage[2] *adj* [A] **1** (of wine) produced in a single year rather than being a mixture from different years: *vintage port* **2** of high quality and lasting value: *a vintage silent film* | *This has been a vintage year for the theatre in London; so many good plays have been produced.* **3** *infml* showing all the best qualities of the work of (the stated person): *This piece of music is vintage Beatles.* **4** *BrE* (of a car) made between 1919 and 1930. Some people like to have or collect vintage cars because of their interest and value —compare VETERAN[1] (3)

vint·ner /ˈvɪntnəʳ/ *n* a person whose business is buying and selling wines

vi·nyl /ˈvaɪnɨl/ *n* [C;U] a firm bendable plastic used instead of leather, rubber, wood, etc., often used to cover the floor of a kitchen or bathroom: *vinyl wallpaper*

vi·ol /ˈvaɪəl/ *n* a stringed musical instrument of the 16th and 17th centuries, from which the modern VIOLIN was developed

vi·o·la /viˈəʊlə/ *n* a stringed musical instrument, like the VIOLIN but a little larger and producing a slightly deeper sound

vi·o·late /ˈvaɪəleɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to disregard or act against (something solemnly promised, accepted as right or legal, etc.): *A country isn't respected if it violates an international agreement.* **2** *fml* to break open, into, or through (something that ought to be respected or left untouched): *The thieves violated many graves in their search for the gold.* | (fig.) *The screech of jet planes violated the peace of the afternoon.* **3** *lit or euph* to have sex with (a woman) by force; RAPE —~**lator** *n* —**lation** /ˌvaɪəˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (**of**)]: *brutal violations of human rights* | *a violation of Soviet air space* | *an action in violation of the club's regulations*

vi·o·lence /ˈvaɪələns/ *n* [U] **1** extreme force in action or feeling, esp. that causes damage, unrest, etc.: *The wind blew with great violence.* | *The violence of his words alarmed her.* **2** rough treatment; use of physical force on others, esp. to hurt or harm illegally: *Because of his frustration with the situation, he resorted to violence.* | *Many people say too much violence is shown on television.* | *sporadic outbreaks of violence in the crowd* | *robbery with violence* **3 do violence to** *fml* to spoil; have a harmful effect on: *These modern boxlike buildings do violence to the beauty of the old city.*

vi·o·lent /ˈvaɪələnt/ *adj* **1** (of a person) uncontrollably fierce and usu. dangerous: *The madman was violent and had to be locked up.* **2** acting with or using great damaging physical force: *a violent storm* | *a violent kick* | *a violent attack* | *greater penalties for both violent and non-violent crimes* | *the scene of violent clashes between police and demonstrators* **3** forceful beyond what is usual or necessary: *She was in a violent temper and began throwing things about.* | *a violent quarrel* | *violent language* **4** produced by or being the effect of damaging physical force: *He died a violent death at the hands of his brother.* —~**ly** *adv*: *The cart lurched violently to the left.* | *He violently objects to the proposal.*

vi·o·let[1] /ˈvaɪəlɨt/ *n* a small plant with sweet-smelling dark purplish-blue flowers —see also SHRINKING VIOLET

violet[2] *adj* having a purplish-blue colour

vi·o·lin /ˌvaɪəˈlɪn/ *n* a four-stringed wooden musical instrument, supported between the left shoulder and the chin and played by drawing a BOW[3] (2) across the strings —see INSTRUMENT (USAGE) —~**ist** *n*

vi·o·lon·cel·lo /ˌvaɪələnˈtʃeləʊ/ *n* -**los** *fml for* CELLO

VIP /ˌviː aɪ ˈpiː/ *n* a very important person; person of great influence or fame: *They treated him like a VIP.* | *the VIP lounge at the airport*

vi·per /ˈvaɪpəʳ/ *n* **1** a small poisonous snake **2** *esp. lit* a wicked or ungrateful person who does harm to others

vi·ra·go /vɨˈrɑːgəʊ/ *n* -**goes** *or* -**gos** **1** *fml derog* a fierce-tempered complaining woman with a loud voice **2** *old use* a woman of great strength and courage

Virago a British company which publishes (PUBLISH) books, usu. in PAPERBACK, written by women: *feminist novels published by Virago*

vi·ral /ˈvaɪərəl/ *adj* of or caused by a VIRUS: *viral pneumonia*

Vir·gil , Vergil /ˈvɜːdʒɨl‖ˈvɜːr-/ (70–19 BC) a Roman poet best known for *The Aeneid*, which tells the story of Aeneas and the Trojans

vir·gin[1] /ˈvɜːdʒɨn‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* a person, esp. a woman or girl, who has never had sex —see also VIRGINITY —~**al** *adj*: *virginal purity*

virgin[2] *adj* **1** [A] without sexual experience: *his virgin bride* **2** *esp. lit* fresh; unspoiled; unchanged by human activity: *no footmarks on the virgin snow* | (fig.) *America is virgin territory as far as our company is concerned.*

Virgin the name of several British companies started by Richard Branson, including the AIRLINE Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Records, a music recording company

vir·gin·als /ˈvɜːdʒɨnəlz‖ˈvɜːr-/ [P] a small square musical instrument like a piano, popular in the 16th and 17th centuries

virgin birth /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] (*often caps.*) the birth of Christ, which Christians believe to have been caused by God rather than by ordinary sexual union. Christians believe that Mary (the mother of Christ) was still a virgin when she gave birth to Christ.

Vir·gin·i·a /vəˈdʒɪniə‖vər-/ **1** *written abbrev.* **VA**– a state on the eastern coast of the US, considered to be a southern state. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY) —see colour map on pages 1374–5 **2** *n* [U] a tobacco grown originally in the state of Virginia: *a Virginia cigarette*

virginia creep·er /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ also **woodbine** *AmE*– *n* [U] a climbing garden plant often grown on walls, with large leaves that turn deep red in autumn

vir·gin·i·ty /vɜːˈdʒɪnɨti‖vɜːr-/ *n* [U] the state of being a virgin: *In many Western countries virginity is not as highly valued as it used to be.* | *She was 19 when she lost her virginity.* (=had sex with a man for the first time) —compare CHASTITY

Virgin Is·lands /ˈ·· ˌ··/ a group of about 100 small islands in the West Indies, owned by the US and Britain

Virgin Ma·ry /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* the mother of Jesus Christ, honoured esp. by the Catholic Church: *statues of the Virgin Mary*

Virgin Mary



Virgin Queen /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] Elizabeth I; because she never married and was thought to have never had sexual relations with a man

Vir·go /ˈvɜːgəʊ‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* **-gos** **1** [U] the sixth sign of the ZODIAC, represented by a young girl **2** [C] a person born between August 23 and September 22 —see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC

vir·ile /ˈvɪraɪl‖ˈvɪrəl/ *adj usu. apprec* **1** (of a man) having the full amount of strength and forceful qualities expected of a man, esp. in matters of sex: *She admired the virile young swimmer.* **2** *sometimes euph* forceful; manly; full of active strength: *His style of singing is very virile, but he doesn't have much feeling for the expressiveness of the words.*

vi·ril·i·ty /vəˈrɪlətɪ/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* male sexual power; manly qualities

vi·rol·o·gy /vaɪəˈrɒlədʒi‖-ˈrɑː-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of (diseases caused by) viruses (VIRUS)

vir·tu·al /ˈvɜːtʃuəl‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] almost what is stated; in fact though not officially: *The president was so much under the influence of his wife that she was the virtual ruler of the country.* | *a virtual certainty*

vir·tu·al·ly /ˈvɜːtʃuəli‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adv* almost; very nearly: *My book's virtually finished; I've only a few last-minute changes to make to it.* | *Virtually all the members were in agreement with the proposal*

virtual re·al·i·ty /ˌ··· ·ˈ···/ *n* an environment in which computers CREATE the effect of a world which seems almost completely real to the people in it

vir·tue /ˈvɜːtʃuː‖ˈvɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* goodness, nobleness, and worth of character as shown in right behaviour: *a man of the highest virtue* —opposite **vice** **2** [C] a good quality of character or behaviour: *Among her many virtues are loyalty, courage, and truthfulness.* —opposite **vice** **3** [C;U] (an) advantage: *He said his plan had the virtue of being the easiest to implement.* | *a speech extolling the virtues of adult education* **4 by virtue of** also **in virtue of** *fml*— as a result of; by means of: *Though she isn't British by birth, she's a British citizen by virtue of her marriage to an Englishman.* **5 make a virtue of necessity** to accept responsibility for or do cheerfully and with interest something that one cannot avoid —see also EASY VIRTUE, VIRTUOUS

vir·tu·os·i·ty /ˌvɜːtʃuˈɒsətɪ‖ˌvɜːrtʃuˈɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml* a very high degree of skill in performing: *the violinist's incredible virtuosity*

vir·tu·o·so /ˌvɜːtʃuˈəʊzəʊ‖ˌvɜːrtʃuˈəʊsəʊ/ *n* **-sos** *or* **-si** /zi‖si/ a person who has a very high degree of skill as a performer in one of the ARTS, esp. music: *a piano virtuoso* | *a virtuoso performance*

vir·tu·ous /ˈvɜːtʃuəs‖ˈvɜːr-/ *adj* **1** *fml* having or showing virtue **2** *derog* (too) satisfied with one's own good behaviour, and expressing this in one's manner towards those who have done wrong —~**ly** *adv*

vir·u·lent /ˈvɪrʊlənt/ *adj* **1** (of a poison, a disease caused by bacteria, etc.) very powerful, quick-acting, and dangerous to life or health **2** *fml* (of a feeling or its expression) very bitter; full of hatred: *virulent abuse* —~**ly** *adv* —**-lence, -lency** *n* [U]

vi·rus /ˈvaɪərəs/ *n* a living thing even smaller than bacteria which causes infectious disease in the body, in plants, etc.: *the common cold virus* | *the spread of virus infections* —compare MICROBE; see also COMPUTER VIRUS, VIRAL

vi·sa[1] /ˈviːzə/ *n* an official mark put onto a PASSPORT by a representative of a country, giving a foreigner permission to enter, pass through, or leave that country: *He has applied for an* **entry visa.** | *She was eventually granted an* **exit visa.** | *Their visas have run out/expired.*

visa[2] *v* **visaed** /-zəd/; *present participle* **visaing** [T] to provide a visa for (a PASSPORT): *You'll need to get your passport visaed if you want to go to America.*

Visa card /ˈ·· ·/ also **Visa**— *n tdmk* a plastic card used to obtain money, goods, and services which the user pays for later: *Do you take Visa?*

vis·age /ˈvɪzɪdʒ/ *n lit* **1** the face: *a smiling visage* **2 -visaged** /vɪzɪdʒd/having the stated type of face: (fig.) *fair-visaged peace*

vis-à-vis /ˌviːz ɑː ˈviː, ˌviːz ə ˈviː/ *prep fml or pomp* with regard to; when compared to: *Where do we stand vis-à-vis last week's change in the law?*

vis·ce·ra /ˈvɪsərə/ *n* [(*the*) P] *med* the large inside organs of the body, such as the heart, lungs, stomach, etc. —**-ral** *adj*

vis·count /ˈvaɪkaʊnt/ *n* (*often cap.*) a British nobleman below an EARL and above a BARON

vis·count·cy /ˈvaɪkaʊntsi/ *n* the rank or title of viscount

vis·count·ess /ˈvaɪkaʊntəs/ *n* (*often cap.*) the wife of a viscount, or a woman with the rank of viscount in her own right

vis·cous /ˈvɪskəs/ also **vis·cid** /ˈvɪsəd/ *tech*— *adj* (of a liquid) thick and sticky; that does not flow easily —**-cosity** /vɪˈskɒsətɪ‖-ˈskɑː-/ *n* [U]

vise /vaɪs/ *n AmE for* VICE[2]

Vish·nu /ˈvɪʃnuː/ a god in the Hindu religion

vis·i·bil·i·ty /ˌvɪzəˈbɪlətɪ/ *n* [U] **1** (esp. in official weather reports) the degree of clearness with which objects can be seen according to the condition of the air and the weather: *The fog is heavy, and visibility is down to 20 metres.* | *The search for survivors had to be abandoned due to poor visibility.* **2** ability to give a clear view: *Our car's large rear window gives excellent visibility.*

vis·i·ble /ˈvɪzəbəl/ *adj* [(**to**)] **1** that can be seen; noticeable to the eye: *Signs of economic and social decay are clearly visible in the streets of the capital.* | *a dark, cloudy night with no stars visible (to the naked eye)* **2** that can be felt, experienced, heard, etc.; noticeable to the mind or senses: *What is this object? It seems to serve no visible purpose.* | *visible annoyance* **3** always appearing in public, on television, in the papers, etc.: *highly visible politicians*

vis·i·bly /ˈvɪzəbli/ *adv* noticeably: *He was visibly shaken by her accusation.*

vi·sion /ˈvɪʒən/ *n* **1** [U] (the) ability to see: *I've had my eyes tested and the optician says that my vision is perfect.* —see also FIELD OF VISION, TWENTY-TWENTY VISION **2** [U] wise understanding of how the future will be; FORESIGHT: *We need a man of vision as leader of the party.* **3** [C+**of**] a picture seen in the mind; idea: *He conjured up a vision of the future.* | *There was so much traffic on the road that I had visions of missing* (=thought I would miss) *my plane.* **4** [C] something that is without bodily reality, seen (as if) in a dream, when in a sleeplike state, or as a religious experience: *She saw/had a vision in which God seemed to appear before her.* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] *esp. lit* a beautiful sight

vi·sion·a·ry[1] /ˈvɪʒənəri‖-neri/ *adj* **1** *apprec* having or showing VISION (2) **2** that exists only in the mind and probably cannot be fulfilled

visionary[2] *n* **1** a person whose aims for the future are noble or excellent but may lack reality or not be easy to put into practice **2** a (holy) person who has VISIONS (4)

vis·it[1] /ˈvɪzət/ *v* **1** [I;T] to go and spend time in (a place) or with (someone): *"Do you live in this town?" "No, we're only visiting."* | *While we're in Europe we ought to visit Holland.* | *When we were in London we visited the Tower twice.* | *Aunt Jane usually visits us for two or three weeks in the spring.* | *(AmE) Aunt Jane is visiting with us* (=staying with us) *this weekend.* —see also VISIT **with** **2** [T] to go to (a place) in order to make an official examination: *Schools have to be visited from time to time by education officers.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] *AmE* to stay: *Anyone who's visiting in Edinburgh ought to go and see the castle.* **4** [I] *AmE* to talk socially with: *Mom and Aunt Jean would visit for hours.*

visit sthg. **on** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *esp. bibl* to direct (one's anger, a punishment, etc.) against: *God has visited his anger on us.*

visit with sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *AmE* to talk socially with —see also VISIT[1] (1)

visit[2] *n* **1** [(**to, from**)] an act or time of visiting: *Their visits are usually quite short.* | *We came here on|for a visit, but we decided to stay.* | *We've just had a visit from the police.* | *I must* **pay a visit to** (=visit) *the doctor.* | *The Queen will make a* **state visit** (=not for personal reasons) *to the Far East next year.* | *an official visit* **2** *AmE* an act or time of talking socially with someone: *I dropped in on Barbara and we had a nice long visit.*

vis·i·ta·tion /ˌvɪzɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [(**by, of**)] *fml* a formal visit by someone in charge, esp. by a high official person to discover whether things are in good order, or by a priest **2** [(**of**)] *fml* an event believed to be an act of punishment, or sometimes of favour, from heaven: *The villagers thought that the storm was a visitation of God.* **3** [(**from**)] *infml, often humor* an unusually long social visit that is troublesome to the person visited

visiting card /ˈ··· ·/ also **card**— *n* a small card with one's name and often address printed on it which one gives to people one visits. Visiting cards used to be commonly used in polite society when people visited each other at home, but this practice has largely stopped. —compare BUSINESS CARD

visiting hours /ˈ··· ·/ *n* [P] the hours at which one is allowed to visit people in hospital: *What are the visiting hours at this hospital?*

vis·it·or /ˈvɪzɪtəʳ/ *n* [(**to, from**)] **1** a person who visits or is visiting: *We only use our best china cups when we have visitors.* | *Visitors to the hospital are asked not to smoke.* | *The castle gets lots of visitors from America.* | *She received her distinguished visitors very graciously.* —see also PRISON VISITOR **2** *tech* a bird which spends only part of the year in a country

▷ USAGE Compare **visitor** and **guest.** If you are a **visitor,** you go and spend time with a person or in a place: *a* **visitor** *to London* | *I had an unwelcome* **visitor** *this morning – the Tax Inspector.* If you are a **guest,** you have been invited by a person, **a** to stay in the person's house, or **b** to have a meal, given or paid for by the person, or **c** to go to a concert, theatre, etc., paid for by the person. *We had several* **guests** *staying with us last weekend.* | *They asked me to spend the summer in Scotland as their* **guest.** | *Would you like to be my* **guest** *at the theatre tonight?* **Guest** is also used for people staying in a hotel: **Guests** *are requested to leave their room keys at the desk.*◁

visitors' book /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a book in which visitors, esp. to a place of interest such as the house in which a famous person once lived, or staying in a hotel, write their names and addresses: *to sign the visitors' book*

vi·sor /ˈvaɪzəʳ/ *n* **1** (in a suit of armour) a movable part of a HELMET which can be lowered to protect the face **2** an eye protector like the front part (PEAK) of a cap which keeps away the sunshine —see also SUN VISOR **3** *AmE for* PEAK[1] (4) **4** a flat, small, hard object which folds down from the roof inside a car over part of the front window to protect the driver's eyes from the sun

vis·ta /ˈvɪstə/ *n* [(**of**)] a distant view to which the eye is directed between narrow limits, e.g. by rows of trees: *a pleasant vista* | (fig.) *An endless vista of tedious days and nights stretched before us.*

vi·su·al /ˈvɪʒuəl/ *adj* of or gained by seeing: *a quick visual examination* | *a strong visual impact* | *The* **visual arts** *are painting, dancing, etc., as opposed to music and literature.* —see also VISUALLY

visual aid /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* something that people can look at to help them understand, learn, remember, etc., such as a picture, map, photograph, or film. Visual aids are often used as materials in education.

visual arts /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* art such as painting, SCULPTURE, etc. which makes its subject known by looking at it rather than reading or hearing it (as a book or music)

visual display unit /ˌ··· ·ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* see VDU

vi·su·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈvɪʒuəlaɪz/ *v* [T (**as**)] to form a picture of (something or someone) in the mind; imagine: *Though he described the place carefully, I couldn't visualize it because it was so different from anything I'd known.* [+(*obj*+) *v-ing*] *Try to visualize (yourself) sailing through the sky on a cloud.* —**-ization** /ˌvɪʒuəlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [U]

vi·su·al·ly /ˈvɪʒuəli/ *adv* **1** in appearance: *Visually the chair is very pleasing, but it's rather uncomfortable!* **2** using VISUAL AIDS: *He explained the journey visually by the use of pictures and maps.*

vi·tal /ˈvaɪtl/ *adj* **1** [(**to, for**)] very necessary; of the greatest importance: *Your support is vital to|for the success of my plan.* | *It's vital that we (should) act at once.* | *issues of vital national importance* | *the vital ingredient* **2** [A] *tech* necessary in order to stay alive: *He was lucky that the bullet hadn't entered a* **vital organ.** (=any organ without which life cannot continue, such as the heart, brain, etc.) **3** *fml apprec* full of life and force: *Their leader's vital and cheerful manner filled his men with courage.* —see also VITALLY, VITALS

vi·tal·i·ty /vaɪˈtælɪti/ *n* [U] *apprec* **1** spirit; cheerfulness; force: *I thought I detected a certain lack of vitality in her movements.* **2** ability to stay alive or working in an effective way: *This religious movement has shown surprising vitality, in spite of all that has been done to suppress it.* | *to sap the nation's vitality and spirit*

vi·tal·ly /ˈvaɪtl-i/ *adv* extremely: *Would it matter vitally if he failed?* | *vitally important*

vi·tals /ˈvaɪtlz/ *n* [(*the*) P] *esp. old use or humor* the main bodily organs (the lungs, heart, brain, and esp. the stomach and bowels) without which a person cannot continue to live

vital signs /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] *med* things that can be measured to see how well someone is, such as temperature, rate of heartbeat and breathing, etc.

vital sta·tis·tics /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [P] **1** *BrE infml, rather humor* the measurements, in INCHes of a woman's body round the chest, waist, and HIPS: *Jean's vital statistics are 38-24-38.* **2** certain facts, officially collected and arranged, about people's lives, esp. their births, marriages, deaths, and length of life

vit·a·min /ˈvɪtəmɪn, ˈvaɪ-‖ˈvaɪ-/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] any of several chemical substances which are found in very small quantities in certain foods, and are important for growth and good health: *This type of bread has added vitamins.* | *vitamin pills* **2** [U] any particular type of this, named by a letter of the alphabet (A, B, C, D, E, G, H, K, or P): *Oranges contain vitamin C.* | *vitamin B6*

vi·ti·ate /ˈvɪʃieɪt/ *v* [T *often pass.*] *fml* to weaken; spoil; harm the quality of: *The moral strength of his argument was vitiated by its impracticality.* —**-ation** /ˌvɪʃiˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U (**of**)]

vit·i·cul·ture /ˈvɪtɪkʌltʃəʳ/ *n* [U] *tech* (the study and science of) the growing of GRAPES, esp. for making wine

Vi·ti Lev·u /ˌviːtiː ˈlevuː/ the largest and most important island of Fiji

vit·re·ous /ˈvɪtriəs/ *adj tech* of, made of, or like glass: *Vitreous rocks are especially hard and shiny.* | *vitreous enamel*

vit·ri·fy /ˈvɪtrɪfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] *tech* to (cause to) change into glass or a glasslike substance, by means of heat

vit·ri·ol /ˈvɪtriəl/ *n* [U] pure SULPHURIC ACID, which burns flesh deeply: (fig., *lit*) *the vitriol in his pen* (=cruel wounding quality in his writing)

vit·ri·ol·ic /ˌvɪtriˈɒlɪk◂‖-ˈɑːl-/ *adj fml* fiercely cruel in speech or judgment; causing sharp pain to the mind: *vitriolic criticism* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

vi·tro /ˈviːtrəʊ/ see IN VITRO

vi·tu·pe·ra·tion /vɪˌtjuːpəˈreɪʃən‖vaɪˌtuː-/ *n* [U] *fml* (the use of) angry speech and cursing

vi·tu·pe·ra·tive /vɪˈtjuːpərətɪv‖vaɪˈtuː-/ *adj fml* full of angry disapproval: *vituperative comments* —~**ly** *adv*

vi·va·ce /viˈvɑːtʃi, -tʃeɪ/ *adv, adj* (in music) played quickly and with spirit

vi·va·cious /vɪˈveɪʃəs/ *adj apprec* full of life and high spirits; LIVELY: *a vivacious girl* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness , -city** /vɪˈvæsɪti/ *n* [U]

Vi·val·di /vɪˈvældi‖-ˈvɑːl-/, **An·to·ni·o** /ænˈtəʊniəʊ/ (about 1675–1741) an Italian COMPOSER who wrote CONCERTOS, OPERAS and SONATAS. He is best known for *The Four Seasons.*

vi·var·i·um /vaɪˈveəriəm/ *n tech* an enclosed place where animals are kept indoors in conditions as similar as possible to their natural surroundings

vi·va voc·e /ˌvaɪvə ˈvəʊsi, -ˈvəʊtʃi ‖ ˌvaɪvə ˈvəʊsi, ˌviːvə ˈvəʊtʃeɪ/ also **viva** *BrE infml*— *n* a spoken examination at a university

viv·id /ˈvɪvɨd/ *adj* **1** (of light or colour) bright and strong; producing a sharp sensation on the eye: *a vivid flash of lightning* | *vivid red hair* **2** that produces sharp clear pictures in the mind; lifelike: *a vivid description/dream* | *"I think he's married to two women." "Nonsense! You've got a* **vivid imagination!**" —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

viv·i·sec·tion /ˌvɪvɨˈsekʃən/ *n* [U] the performing of operations on animals not to cure sickness but as scientific EXPERIMENTS (=tests), esp. in order to increase medical knowledge of human diseases. Some people oppose vivisection because they think it is cruel to the animals. —see also ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP

viv·i·sec·tion·ist /ˌvɪvɨˈsekʃənɨst/ *n* a person who practises or supports vivisection

vix·en /ˈvɪksən/ *n* **1** a female fox **2** *lit* a nasty bad-tempered woman

vix·en·ish /ˈvɪksənɪʃ/ *adj lit* (of a woman) fierce and bad-tempered

Viy·el·la /vaɪˈelə/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft material made of cotton and wool, that is made into shirts and other clothes

viz. /vɪz/ also **videlicet** *fml*— *adv* and it is/they are; that is to say: *On most English farms you'll find only three kinds of animal, viz. sheep, cattle, and pigs.*

▷ USAGE 1 **Viz.** is rather old-fashioned, and is less common than **namely** or **i.e.** 2 **Viz.** may be read aloud as "namely". —see also NAMELY (USAGE)◁

Viz a British magazine for adults with COMIC STRIP stories full of rude jokes about sex and bodily processes

vi·zi·er /vɨˈzɪəʳ/ *n* (in former times) a minister in some Muslim countries

V-J Day /ˌviː ˈdʒeɪ ˌdeɪ/ Victory over Japan Day; August 15th 1945, the day on which victory over Japan in the Second World War was remembered

Vlad·i·vos·tok /ˌvlædɪˈvɒstɒk‖-ˈvɑːstɑːk/ a port and city on the eastern coast of Russia

V-neck /ˈviː nek/ *n* a neck opening of a dress, shirt, etc., with the front cut in the shape of a V —**V-necked** *adj*: *a V-necked sweater*

VoA /ˌviːəʊ ˈeɪ/ *n* [*the*] *abbrev. for:* VOICE OF AMERICA

vo·cab /ˈvəʊkæb/ *n infml for* VOCABULARY (2)

vo·cab·u·la·ry /vəˈkæbjʊlərɪ, vəʊ-‖-leri/ *n* **1** [C;U] words known, learnt, used, etc.: *Our little boy's just starting to talk; he's got a vocabulary of* (=knows) *about ten words.* | *the average vocabulary of an intermediate student* | *to build up/extend one's vocabulary* | *to have a limited/extensive vocabulary* | *her musical vocabulary* | *The word "failure" is not in my vocabulary.* (=I will keep trying to do something, however difficult it is) —compare LEXIS **2** [C] a list of words, usu. in alphabetical order and with explanations of their meanings, less complete than a dictionary —see also GLOSSARY **3** [C;U] a list of the CODES or TERMS provided for use in a computer system

vo·cal[1] /ˈvəʊkəl/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] of the voice; used in speaking: *The tongue is one of the vocal organs.* **2** [*no comp.*] produced by or for the voice; spoken, sung, or expressed aloud: *I like instrumental better than vocal music.* **3** *infml* expressing oneself freely and noisily in words; talking a great deal, usu. loudly: *He gave her very vocal support.* | *an increasingly vocal minority* —~**ly** *adv*

vocal[2] *n* [*often pl.*] the sung part of a popular song, as opposed to the parts played on instruments: *a song by Wings, with Paul McCartney on vocals*

vocal cords /ˈ·· ·, ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] thin bands of muscle inside the throat that produce sounds when air passes through them —see picture at RESPIRATORY

vo·cal·ist /ˈvəʊkəlɨst/ *n* a singer of popular songs, esp. one who sings with a band —compare INSTRUMENTALIST

vo·ca·tion /vəʊˈkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [S (**for**)] particular fitness or ability for a certain kind of work, esp. of a worthy kind: *She's a good nurse because she has a real vocation for looking after the sick.* **2** [C] a job, esp. which one does because one has a special fitness or ability to give service to other people: *Teaching children ought to be a vocation as well as a way of earning money.* **3** [S] the belief that one has been chosen by God to lead a religious life: *He gave up being a priest when he lost his vocation.* —see JOB (USAGE)

vo·ca·tion·al /vəʊˈkeɪʃənəl/ *adj* of or preparing one for a job: *vocational training* | *a vocational guidance counsellor* | *a vocational school*

vocational ed·u·ca·tion /·ˌ··· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] education or training for specific jobs rather than for life in general or simply enjoyment

voc·a·tive /ˈvɒkətɪv‖ˈvɑː-/ *n tech* a particular form of a noun in certain languages, such as Latin, used when speaking or writing to someone or something —**vocative** *adj*

vo·cif·er·ate /vəˈsɪfəreɪt, vəʊ-‖vəʊ-/ *v* [I] *fml* to shout loudly and forcefully, esp. when complaining —**-ation** /vəˌsɪfəˈreɪʃən, vəʊ-‖vəʊ-/ *n* [C;U] *fml*

vo·cif·er·ous /vəˈsɪfərəs, vəʊ-‖vəʊ-/ *adj fml* **1** noisy in expressing one's feelings: *a vociferous group of pickets* **2** expressed noisily in speech or by shouting: *vociferous demands* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

vod·ka /ˈvɒdkə‖ˈvɑːdkə/ *n* [U] a strong, colourless, and almost tasteless alcoholic drink, made originally in Russia and the TRADITIONAL drink of this country

vogue[1] /vəʊg/ *n* [C (**for**);(*the*) U] the popular fashion or custom at a certain usu. not lasting time: *There seems to be a vogue for Chinese food at present.* | *Short skirts were* **in vogue**/*were* **all the vogue** *in the 1960s.*

vogue[2] *adj* [A] newly popular and much used, but likely soon to go out of favour: *vogue words*

Vogue a fashion magazine with articles and photographs dealing with clothes, beauty, and subjects of interest to women

voice[1] /vɔɪs/ *n* **1** [C;U] (the ability to make) the sound(s) produced in speaking and singing: *a high/low/deep voice* | *a hoarse/husky/rough voice* | *a gruff/kind/soft voice* | *I've got a bad cold and I've* **lost my voice.** | *We could hear the children's voices in the garden.* | *She's got a lovely voice.* | *My son's voice is breaking.* (=becoming lower like a man's) | *There was a growl in his voice.* | *He replied in an angry* **tone of voice.** | *a voice quivering with anger* | *She's* **in good voice** (=singing well) *today.* | *She* **lowered her voice**/*Her voice dropped as she told me the secret.* | *I had to* **raise my voice** (=speak louder) *to make myself heard.* | *Don't raise your voice* (=speak angrily) *to me!* | (fig.) *Not a voice was raised against the plan.* (=no one disagreed with it) | (fig.) *"I don't think you should get married." "Ah,* **the voice of experience!**" (=you are saying that because of your own (bad) experience) **2** [S;U (**in**)] the ability to express an opinion, to vote, or to influence other opinions, decisions, etc.: *I can't help you to get this job, as I have very little voice in the decision of the directors.* | *He added/lent his voice to the call for disarmament.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] **a** a means of expression: *He became the recognized voice of the West Indian community in Britain.* | *The feminists have found their political voice at last.* | *the voice of reason/sanity* **b** an expressed wish or opinion: *The government should listen to the voice of the people/the majority.* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] *tech* the form of the verb which shows whether the subject of a sentence acts (**active voice**) or is acted on (**passive voice**) **5 give voice to** *fml* to express (feelings, thoughts, etc.) aloud **6 with one voice** *lit* all together; with everyone expressing the same opinion **7 -voiced** /vɔɪst/ having a voice of the stated quality: *loud-voiced* —see also **at the top of one's voice** (TOP[1]); see NOISE (USAGE)

voice[2] *v* [T] **1** to express in words, esp. forcefully: *The chairman encouraged us all to voice our opinions.* **2** *tech* to produce (a sound, esp. a consonant) with a movement of the VOCAL CORDS as well as with the breath: /d/ *and* /g/ *are voiced consonants, but* /t/ *and* /k/ *are not.*

voice box /ˈ· ·/ *n* LARYNX

voice·less /ˈvɔɪsləs/ *adj tech* (of a speech sound, esp. a consonant) not voiced (VOICE[2](2)): /f, k, t/ *are voiceless consonants.*

Voice of A·mer·i·ca /ˌ· · · ˈ···/ [*the*] an American radio station which broadcasts news and other programmes to other countries

voice-o·ver /ˈ· ··/ *n* the voice of an unseen person on a film or television show, who makes remarks or gives information about what is being shown

void[1] /vɔɪd/ *adj* **1** [F+**of**] *fml* empty (of); without; lacking; DEVOID: *That part of the town is completely void of interest for visitors.* **2** *tech* (esp. of an official agreement) having no legal force: *A contract signed by a child is void.* —see also NULL AND VOID

void[2] *n* **1** [*the*+S] *esp. lit* the space around the world which stretches out beyond the stars **2** [C *usu. sing.*] a deep empty space: *The ground began to shake and a sudden void opened under his feet.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a feeling of emptiness or loss: *Their son's death left a painful void in their lives.*

void[3] *v* [T] **1** *fml or tech* to get rid of (the unwanted contents of something) by emptying or pouring out through a hole, tube, etc. **2** *law* to cause to be without effect; make void

voi·là, voila /vwɑːˈlɑː/ *interj Fr* (said when something or someone appears, perhaps in an unexpected or surprising way): *I just put everything inside, close the lid, push the button and...voilà! Vegetable purée!*

voile /vɔɪl/ *n* [U] a very fine, thin, almost transparent material of cotton, silk, or wool; it is used esp. to make women's summer clothing and curtains

vol /vɒl‖vɑːl/ (*often cap.*) *abbrev for:* VOLUME (2)

vol·a·tile /ˈvɒlətaɪl‖ˈvɑːlətl/ *adj* **1** of a quickly changing, undependable nature, esp. easily becoming angry or dangerous: *a volatile character | The situation in the streets is highly volatile, and the army is being called in.* **2** (of a liquid or oil) easily changing into a gas: *Petrol is volatile.* **—tility** /ˌvɒləˈtɪlɪ̈ti‖ˌvɑː-/ *n* [U]

vol-au-vent /ˌvɒl əʊ ˈvɒn‖ˌvɔːl əʊ ˈvɑːn/ *n* a very light small pastry case filled with meat, chicken, etc.

vol·can·ic /vɒlˈkænɪk‖vɑːl-/ *adj* **1** of, from, produced by, or caused by a volcano: *volcanic rocks | volcanic activity* **2** violently forceful: *a volcanic temper*

vol·ca·no /vɒlˈkeɪnəʊ‖vɑːl-/ *n* **-noes** *or* **-nos** a mountain with a CRATER (=large opening) at the top, and often others on the sides, through which LAVA (=melting rock), steam, gases, etc., sometimes escape with explosive force: *An* **active volcano** *may erupt at any time. | A* **dormant volcano** *is quiet at present. | An* **extinct volcano** *can no longer erupt.*

vole /vəʊl/ *n* (*often in comb.*) a small thick-bodied short-tailed animal of the rat and mouse family, which lives in fields, woods, banks of rivers, etc.

Vol·ga /ˈvɒlgə‖ˈvɑːl-/ a river in Russia which flows into the Caspian Sea. The Volga is the longest river in Europe.

vo·li·tion /vəˈlɪʃən‖vəʊ-, və-/ *n* [U] *fml* the act of using one's will; one's power to control, decide, or choose: *I didn't tell her to go; she went of her own volition.*

Volks·wag·en /ˈvɒlkswægən‖ˈvəʊks-/ *n tdmk* a German company that makes cars that are thought to be very RELIABLE —see also BEETLE

vol·ley[1] /ˈvɒli‖ˈvɑːli/ *n* **1** [**of**] a number of shots fired at the same time: *The soldiers fired a volley into the air as a warning to the rioters. |* (fig.) *a volley of curses |* (fig.) *a volley of blows* —compare SALVO **2** a kicking or hitting of a ball before it has hit the ground: *The tennis star played a fine forehand/backhand volley. | The footballer kicked the ball on the volley.* —see also HALF VOLLEY

volley[2] *v* **1** [I] (of guns) to be fired all together **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to hit or kick (a ball) before it has hit the ground: *The footballer volleyed the ball into the back of the net.* **3** [I;T] (in tennis) to make a volley against (one's opponent)

vol·ley·ball /ˈvɒlibɔːl‖ˈvɑː-/ *n* [U] a team game in which a large ball is struck by hand backwards and forwards across a high net without being allowed to touch the ground —see REFEREE (USAGE)

volt /vəʊlt/ *n tech* the standard measure of the amount of electrical force needed to produce one AMP of electrical current where the RESISTANCE is one OHM

volt·age /ˈvəʊltɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] electrical force measured in volts: *a high voltage fence* —compare RESISTANCE (3)

volte-face /ˌvɒlt ˈfɑːs‖ˌvɔːlt-/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *esp. lit or fml* a change to a completely opposite opinion or course of action: *an extraordinary/surprising volte-face on the part of the government*

Vol·taire /vɒlˈteəʳ‖vəʊl-/, **Fran·çois Mar·ie Ar·ou·et de** /ˈfrɒnswɑː ˈmɑːri ˈærueɪ də‖ frɑːnˈswɑː məˈriː ɑːruˈeɪ-/ (1699–1778) a French writer and PHILOSOPHER whose ideas had a great influence. His best-known works are *Candide* and the *Philosophical Dictionary*.

vol·u·ble /ˈvɒljʊ̈bəl‖ˈvɑː-/ *adj fml, often derog* **1** (of a person) talking a lot **2** (of speech) expressed (esp. rather fast) with many words: *voluble excuses* —compare VERBOSE **—bly** *adv* **—bility** /ˌvɒljʊ̈ˈbɪlɪ̈ti‖ˌvɑː-/ *n* [U]

vol·ume /ˈvɒljuːm‖ˈvɑːljəm/ *n* **1** [U] (degree of) loudness of sound: *The television's too loud; turn the volume down. | the volume control* **2** [U] the size of a solid thing or of a space, measured by multiplying the length by the width by the depth: *The volume of this container is 100,000 cubic metres.* —compare AREA (1) **3** [C;U] amount produced by some kind of activity: *The volume of passenger travel on the railways is decreasing. | Letters had poured in in large volumes.* **4** [C] any of a set of books of the same kind or together forming a whole: *We have a set of Dickens's works in 24 volumes. | You'll find the article in volume 9 of the encyclopedia.* **5** [C] *fml* a book, esp. a large one: *His library was full of rare old volumes.* —see also **speak volumes** (SPEAK)

vo·lu·mi·nous /vəˈluːmɪ̈nəs, vəˈljuː-‖vəˈluː-/ *adj fml* **1** (of a garment) very loose and full; using much cloth: *a voluminous skirt* **2** (of a container) very large; able to hold a lot: *a voluminous suitcase* **3** *often derog* producing or containing much writing: *a voluminous writer | a voluminous report* **—~ly** *adv* **—~ness** *n* [U]

vol·un·ta·ry[1] /ˈvɒləntəri‖ˈvɑːlənteri/ *adj* **1** (of a person or action) acting or done willingly, without being forced: *He made a voluntary statement to the police. | She took voluntary redundancy.* —compare COMPULSORY **2** [A] acting or done without payment; controlled or supported by people who give their money, services, etc., of their own free will: *Many social services are still provided by voluntary societies. | At election time the party needs a lot of voluntary helpers.* **3** *tech* under the control of the will: *the voluntary muscles* —opposite **involuntary** **—tarily** /ˈvɒləntərɪ̈li‖ˌvɑːlənˈterɪ̈li/ *adv* : *He made the promise quite voluntarily; I didn't force him to.*

voluntary[2] *n* a piece of music played in church before or after the service, usu. on an ORGAN

voluntary school /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* (in Britain) a school built by an independent, usu. religious, organization but which a local education authority is partly or completely financially responsible for. The two kinds of voluntary school are aided schools and controlled schools —see AIDED SCHOOL, CONTROLLED SCHOOL

Voluntary Ser·vice O·ver·seas /ˌ···· ˌ·· ··ˈ·/ see VSO

voluntary work /ˈ···· ˌ·/ *n* work which is done free by someone who wants to do it, usu. for an organization that helps people: *When he retired, he did a lot of voluntary work.*

vol·un·teer[1] /ˌvɒlənˈtɪəʳ‖ˌvɑː-/ *v* **1** [I (**for**);T] to offer (one's services or help) without payment or reward; make a willing offer, esp. when others are unwilling: *He volunteered for guard duty.* [+*to-v*] *Jenny volunteered to clear up afterwards.* **2** [I (**for**)] to offer to join the army, navy, or airforce of one's own free will, without being forced to —compare CONSCRIPT[1] **3** [T] to tell (something) without being asked: *He volunteered a statement to the police. | "It's not my car, it's my father's," she volunteered.*

volunteer[2] *n* [(**for**)] a person who has volunteered or is willing to volunteer: *This work costs us nothing; it's all done by volunteers. | Can I have a volunteer to collect the glasses?* —compare CONSCRIPT[2]

vo·lup·tu·a·ry /vəˈlʌptʃuəri‖-tʃueri/ *n lit, usu. derog* a person who gets great enjoyment from physical comfort, esp. sexual activity, and from having expensive things

vo·lup·tu·ous /vəˈlʌptʃuəs/ *adj* **1** *apprec* (esp. connected with women) of a kind that suggests or expresses sexual pleasure or enjoyment: *The dancer's movements were slow and voluptuous. | She had a full voluptuous mouth. | her voluptuous curves* **2** (of a woman) having a beautiful soft rounded body that excites sexual feeling **3 a** giving a fine delight to the senses: *the voluptuous feeling of pure soft silk* **b** giving a satisfying feeling of rest and enjoyment: *voluptuous comfort* **4** *fml derog* too much concerned with the enjoyment of physical (esp. sexual) pleasures: *the voluptuous life of the Romans in ancient times* **—~ly** *adv* **—~ness** *n* [U]

Vol·vo /ˈvɒlvəʊ‖ˈvɑːl-/ *tdmk* a Swedish company that makes cars that are considered safe and dependable

vom·it[1] /ˈvɒmɪ̈t‖ˈvɑː-/ *v* [I;T] to throw up (the contents of the stomach) through the mouth; be sick: *The unpleasant smell made her feel so sick that she began to vomit. | He was vomiting blood. |* (fig.) *The volcano vomited out great*

black clouds of smoke. (=sent them out with great force and in great quantity) —see SICK (USAGE)

vomit² *n* [U] food or other matter that has been vomited

Von·ne·gut /ˈvɒnəgʌt‖ˈvɑːn-/, **Kurt** /kɜːt‖kɜːrt/ (1922–) an American writer known for his BLACK HUMOUR and SCIENCE FICTION in books such as *Cat's Cradle* and *Slaughterhouse Five*

voo·doo /ˈvuːduː/ *n* [U] **1** (*often cap.*) a set of magical beliefs and practices used as a form of religion, particularly by the people of Haiti **2** magic; the practice of achieving something by means of what are not usual or realistic: *"How do you think you're going to pass that test without studying? Voodoo?"* —~**ism** *n* [U]

voodoo e·co·nom·ics /ˈ·· ··ˌ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* economic ideas which look attractive but will not work properly over time

vo·ra·cious /vəˈreɪʃəs, vɒ-‖vɔː-, və-/ *adj* **1** eating or wanting large quantities of food: *Pigs are voracious feeders.* | *a voracious appetite* **2** having or showing a limitless eagerness, like a hunger, for something: *She's a voracious reader of biographies.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness, -racity** /-ˈræsəti/ *n* [U]

vor·tex /ˈvɔːteks‖ˈvɔːr-/ *n* **-texes** *or* **-tices** /təsiːz/ **1** [C] a powerful circular moving mass of esp. water or wind that can draw objects into its hollow centre, as in a WHIRLPOOL or WHIRLWIND **2** [*the*+S **(of)**] *lit or pomp* a situation so powerful that one is helpless against it: *Against their will they were drawn into the vortex of war.*

vo·ta·ry /ˈvəʊtəri/ *n* [**(of**)] *fml or tech* a regular worshipper: *Roman soldiers were often votaries of Mars, the god of war.*

vote¹ /vəʊt/ *n* **1** [C **(on, about)**] an act of making a choice or decision on a matter by means of voting: *At the end of the meeting, a vote was taken on the motion.* | *We will have to put the matter to the vote.* | *to hold a free vote* (=in which one's party, etc., does not guide one's vote) | *a voice vote* —see also BLOCK VOTE **2** [C **(for, against)**] a (particular person's) choice or decision made by voting: *At the election I shall give my vote to*/**cast my vote** *for Tom Smith.* | *I know we can rely on your vote.* | *Announcing the tax cuts just before the election was the most blatant piece of vote-seeking I've ever seen.* | *vote-catching policies* | *an attempt to pull in votes* —see also CASTING VOTE **3** [S] a decision made by voting: *The vote yesterday went in his favour.* | *The vote was 215 to 84 against the motion, with 12 abstentions.* | *a very close vote* **4** [C] the piece of paper on which a choice is expressed: *Members were asked to place their votes in the ballot box.* | *He* **spoilt his vote** (=wrote on it or tore it, etc., so that it could not be officially counted) *in protest against the choice of candidates.* | *to count the votes* **5** [*the*+S] **a** the whole number of such choices: *The opposition vote seems to be growing.* (=more people are voting for them) **b** the opinion represented by such choices: *The women's vote will certainly be in favour of spending more on schools.* **6** [*the*+S] also **votes** *pl.*— the right to vote in political elections: *In Britain, young people are given the vote at the age of 18.* | *In the early part of the century they campaigned for votes for women.*

vote² *v* **1** [I **(for, against, on)**] to express one's choice officially from among the possibilities offered or suggested, usu. by marking a piece of paper (a BALLOT) secretly, or by calling out or raising one's hand at a meeting: *You're only 16; you're too young to vote.* (=to vote in an election to choose a parliament) | *They registered to vote.* | *I shall vote for Benn because I think he's the better man.* | *As we can't agree on this matter, let's vote on it.* | *Vote Cunningham* (=vote for Cunningham), *the man you can trust!* [+*to-v*] *We voted unanimously to refer the matter back to the committee.* [+*that*] *They voted that the meeting should be adjourned.* | *tactical voting* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to appoint or dismiss by means of a vote or election: *The government is afraid it will be voted out of office at the next election.* **3** [T] to agree, as the result of a vote, to provide (something): [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Parliament has voted the town a large sum of money for a new road.* **4** [T+*obj*+*n*; *often pass.*] *infml* to agree or state as the general opinion: *The dinner was voted a great success.*

vote sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to defeat by voting
vote sthg. ↔ **through** *phr v* [T] to accept by voting

vote of cen·sure /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* **votes of censure** a formal declaration of blame against someone, expressed by voting

vote of con·fi·dence /ˌ· · ˈ···/ *n* **votes of confidence** a formal declaration of support for the actions of someone, usu. expressed by voting: *The chairman was given a vote of confidence by the other members of the committee.*

vote of no con·fi·dence /ˌ· · ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* **votes of no confidence** a formal vote to express one's support or lack of it for the actions of a person or group of people, esp. the government: *The government face a vote of no confidence in the House of Commons this week.*

vote of thanks /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **votes of thanks** [*usu. sing.*] a formal expression of thanks usu. made on a public occasion: *I'd like to* **propose a vote of thanks** *to Mrs Jarvis for all her hard work.*

vot·er /ˈvəʊtəʳ/ *n* a person who votes or has the right to vote, esp. in a political election: *This policy will not appeal to the voters.* | *Labour voters* | *intimidation of voters* —see also FLOATING VOTER

voting booth /ˈ·· ·/ *n* POLLING BOOTH

voting ma·chine /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* a machine which records votes as they are made

vo·tive /ˈvəʊtɪv/ *adj* [A] *tech* given or done to fulfil a solemn promise made to God or a SAINT, usu. as thanks for a favour prayed for and received: *The church was full of votive candles.* | *a votive offering*

vouch /vaʊtʃ/ *v*

vouch for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to declare one's firm belief in, from one's own personal experience or knowledge: *I've read this report carefully and I can vouch for its correctness.* **2** to take the responsibility for the future good behaviour of: *I'll vouch for my son, officer.*

vouch·er /ˈvaʊtʃəʳ/ *n* **1** *BrE* a kind of ticket that may be used instead of money for a particular purpose: *a travel voucher* | *Some firms give their workers* **luncheon vouchers.** (=tickets with which they can buy a meal in certain restaurants) **2** *law* a RECEIPT or official declaration given to prove that accounts are correct or that money has already been paid

voucher sys·tem /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **voucher plan** /ˈ·· ˌ·/— *n* (in the US) a system in which parents receive a voucher worth an amount of money which they can use to go to any public school or to help pay for a private school (a school one must pay for)

vouch·safe /vaʊtʃˈseɪf/ *v* [T] *lit or fml* to offer, give, say, or do (something) as an act of favour or kindness, esp. to someone lower in rank or position than oneself: *He did not vouchsafe a reply.* (=did not reply)

vow¹ /vaʊ/ *n* [**(of)**] a solemn promise or declaration of intention: *All the men took*/*made a vow of loyalty to their leader.* | *The members of this religious community are under a* **vow of silence.** (=have promised to God that they will not speak) [+*to-v*] *a vow to avenge their deaths*

vow² *v* [T] **1** [+*to-v*/*(that)*;~~*obj*~~] to declare or swear solemnly: *He vowed to kill his wife's lover.* | *When young Phil was caught stealing he vowed he'd never do it again.* **2** [**(to)**] *fml* to promise to give by swearing solemnly, esp. to God: *Priests vow their lives to the service of the church.*

vow·el /ˈvaʊəl/ *n* **1** any of the human speech sounds in which the breath is let out without any closing of the air passage in the mouth or throat: *The simple vowel sounds of British English are represented in this dictionary by* /iː, ɪ, e, æ, ɑː, ɒ, ɔː, ʊ, uː, ʌ, ɜː, ə/. **2** *not tech* a letter used for representing any of these: *The vowels in the English alphabet are* a, e, i, o, u, *and, sometimes,* y. —compare CONSONANT¹

vox pop /ˌvɒks ˈpɒp‖ˌvɑːks ˈpɑːp/ *n BrE infml* an inquiry carried out in the street by a television, radio, or newspaper reporter who tries to find out people's opinions on a matter of public interest

voy·age¹ /ˈvɔɪ-ɪdʒ/ *n* a journey, usu. long, made by boat or ship: *The voyage from England to India used to take six months.* | *When I give up work I shall go on*/*make*/*take a long sea voyage.* | *on the outward*/*homeward voyage* —see TRAVEL (USAGE)

voyage² *v* [I;T] *lit or fml* to make a long journey by (sea); travel over (the sea)

voy·ag·er /ˈvɔɪ-ɪdʒəʳ/ *n* a person who travels by sea, esp. where risks or difficulties may be met

Voyager also **Voyager Pro·gram** /ˈ··· ˌ··/— *n* an American space programme which sent two spacecraft (PROBES) to travel past other PLANETS in this SOLAR SYSTEM

voy·eur /vwɑːˈjɜːʳ/ *n* **1** a person who obtains sexual excitement from watching the sexual activities of others, esp. in secret **2** a person who enjoys watching the private and esp. unpleasant activities of others —~**ism** *n* [U] —~**istic** /ˌvwɑːjəˈrɪstɪk◂/ *adj* —~**istically** /kli/ *adv*

VP /ˌviː ˈpiː/ *n abbrev. for:* Vice President

vs. /ˈvɜːsəs‖ˈvɜːr-/ *AmE for* V.

V sign /ˈviː saɪn/ *n* **1** holding up the first two fingers of the hand in the shape of a V, with the back of the hand towards the body. It was used in the Second World War to show (a desire for) victory. The same sign was used in the 1960s and 1970s, but then called a **peace sign**, showing a desire for peace. **2** *BrE* a similar sign made with the back of the hand facing forwards, used for expressing great dislike or anger, and considered very offensive

VSO /ˌviː es ˈəʊ/ Voluntary Service Overseas; a British organization which sends people to developing countries for at least two years, to live and work there and to share their skills and knowledge with the local people

VT *written abbrev. for* VERMONT

VTOL /ˌviː tiː əʊ ˈel, ˈviːtɒl‖-tɑːl/ *adj* [A] (of an aircraft) vertical takeoff and landing; able to rise into the air and land without having to run for a certain distance along the ground, on a RUNWAY —compare STOL

Vul·can /ˈvʌlkən/ the Roman name for Hephaestus, god of fire and metalworking

vul·can·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈvʌlkənaɪz/ *v* [T] to strengthen (rubber) by chemical treatment —**-ization** /ˌvʌlkənaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-nə-/ *n* [U]

vul·gar /ˈvʌlgəʳ/ *adj* **1** showing a lack of fine feeling or good judgment in the choice of what is suitable or beautiful: *The house was full of expensive but very vulgar furniture.* | *a vulgar display of wealth* **2** extremely rude or bad-mannered: *vulgar habits* —~**ly** *adv*

vulgar frac·tion /ˌ·· ˈ··/ ‖ also **common fraction** *esp. AmE*— *n* a FRACTION expressed by a number above and a number below a line, rather than as a DECIMAL: *¾ is a vulgar fraction.*

vul·gar·i·ty /vʌlˈgærɨti/ *n* **1** [U] the state or quality of being vulgar: *her appalling vulgarity* **2** [C *often pl.*] a particular example of vulgar speech or action

vul·gar·ize -ise *BrE* /ˈvʌlgəraɪz/ *v* [T] to spoil the quality of; lower the standard of (something that is good) —**-ization** /ˌvʌlgəraɪˈzeɪʃən‖-gərə-/ *n* [C;U]

Vulgar Lat·in /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the form of Latin spoken in ancient Rome, esp. by the common people, as opposed to the written (CLASSICAL) language, and from which many modern languages, such as Italian, French, and Spanish, have developed

Vul·gate /ˈvʌlgeɪt, -gɨt/ [*the*] a special Latin translation of the Bible made in the 4th century, and commonly used in the Roman Catholic Church

vul·ne·ra·ble /ˈvʌlnərəbəl/ *adj* [(**to**)] **1** (of a place or thing) weak; not well protected; able to be easily attacked: *They were in a vulnerable position, with the enemy on the hill above them.* | *Your arguments are rather vulnerable to criticism.* **2** (of a person or their feelings) easily harmed, hurt, or wounded; sensitive: *a young and vulnerable girl* —**-bly** *adv* —**-bility** /ˌvʌlnərəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U (**to**)]

vul·ture /ˈvʌltʃəʳ/ *n* **1** a large ugly bird with an almost featherless head and neck, which feeds on dead animals. In jokes and humorous drawings, vultures often fly or sit above a person who is dying, esp. in a desert: *vultures circling overhead* **2** a person who uses people, esp. weak and helpless people, for his or her own advantage and gain: *He says moneylenders are the vultures of society.* — see also CULTURE VULTURE

vul·va /ˈvʌlvə/ *n* **-vae** /viː/ *or* **-vas** the place where the passage leading to the female sex organs has its opening on the body

VW /ˌviː ˈdʌbəljuː/ *n abbrev. for* VOLKSWAGEN

vy·ing /ˈvaɪ-ɪŋ/ *present participle of* VIE

W

W, w, w /ˈdʌbəljuː/ **W's, w's** *or* **Ws, ws** the 23rd letter of the English alphabet

W *written abbrev. for:* **1** west(ern) **2** a WATT

W-2 /ˌdʌbəljuː ˈtuː/ also **W-2 form** /ˌ··· ˈ· ˌ·/– *n* (in the US) a form which employers prepare for their workers stating the amount the worker has earned that year and the amount of tax which has been taken out of their wages. The worker sends this form with his or her tax statement to the IRS.

WA *written abbrev. for:* WASHINGTON STATE

Wac /wæk/ *n AmE infml* a member of the US Women's Army Corps: *Have you seen the new Wacs' uniforms?*

WAC *n* [(*the*)] *abbrev. for* the Women's Army Corps of the US Army

wack·y /ˈwæki/ *adj infml, esp. AmE* silly; slightly mad —**-iness** *n* [U]

wad /wɒd‖wɑːd/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a thick collection of things, such as pieces of paper, folded, pressed, or fastened together: *a wad of bank notes* **2** a thick soft mass of material, esp. used for pressing into a hole or crack: *She stuffed wads of cotton in her ears to keep out the noise.* —see picture at PIECE

wad·ding /ˈwɒdɪŋ‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* [U] soft material, esp. cardboard as used for packing or LINT used in medicine

wad·dle /ˈwɒdl‖ˈwɑːdl/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to walk with short steps, swinging from one side to the other, like a duck: *The fat man waddled up to her.* —**waddle** *n*

wade /weɪd/ *v* **1** [I (**across**);T] to walk through (water): *We waded across the stream.* —compare PADDLE² (3) **2** [I] *AmE for* PADDLE² (3)

wade in *phr v* [I] *infml* to interrupt esp. an argument forcefully and with determination: *It wasn't his affair, but he waded in with his opinion.*

wade into sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to begin (an attack on) forcefully and with determination: *She waded into the task with more enthusiasm than skill.* | *I must have offended her somehow, because she really waded into me.*

wade through sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to go through or complete (something long, unpleasant, or uninteresting) with an effort: *I've got all this correspondence to wade through before I can go home.*

Wade, Virginia (1945–) an English tennis player who won at Wimbledon in 1977

wad·er /ˈweɪdəʳ/ also **wading bird** /ˈ·· ·/– *n* a bird that walks about in water to find its food, and usu. has a long neck and long legs: *Herons and curlews are waders.*

wad·ers /ˈweɪdəz‖-dərz/ *n* [P] high rubber boots to protect the legs when one walks in water, e.g. while fishing

wadge /wɒdʒ‖wɑːdʒ/ *n* [(**of**)] *BrE infml for* WAD (1)

wad·i, wady /ˈwɒdi‖ˈwɑːdi/ *n* a usu. dry river bed in a desert, esp. in North Africa

wad·ing pool /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* PADDLING POOL

Waf /wæf/ *n AmE infml* a woman serving in the US Air Force

wa·fer /ˈweɪfəʳ/ *n* **1** a very thin BISCUIT eaten esp. with ice cream **2** a thin round piece of special bread used with wine in the Christian religious ceremony of COMMUNION

wafer-thin /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* extremely thin

waf·fle¹ /ˈwɒfəl‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* a light sweet cake, usu. marked with raised squares, and often covered with a sweet liquid. It is cooked in a special pan called a **waffle iron**.

waffle² *v* [I (ON)] **1** *BrE infml* to talk or write meaninglessly and at great length: *I tried to pin him down to a direct answer, but he just went waffling on.* **2** *AmE infml* to be unable to decide which action to take; to WAVER or VACILLATE: *As the President continues to waffle over his stance on tax hikes; Congress grows impatient.* —**waffle** *n* [U]: *His exam answer was just a lot of waffle.*

waft /wɑːft, wɒft‖wɑːft, wæft/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *fml or lit* to (cause to) move or go lightly (as if) on wind or waves: *Cooking smells wafted along the hall.* | *A sudden gust of wind wafted the papers off her desk.*

wag¹ /wæg/ *v* **-gg-** [I;T] (of a part of the body) to shake or be shaken quickly and repeatedly from side to side: *The dog wagged its tail with pleasure.* | *The dog's tail wagged.* | (fig.) *You must stop visiting that woman;* **tongues are beginning to wag.** (=people have noticed it and are talking about it)

wag² *n* [*usu. sing.*] an act of wagging; shake: *The dog greeted its master with a wag of its tail.*

wag³ *n infml* a clever and amusing talker, usu. male —see also WAGGISH

wage¹ /weɪdʒ/ *n* [S] wages: *an average weekly wage of £110* | *He gives most of his* **wage packet** (=(envelope containing) his wages) *to his wife.* | *In our family both my husband and I are* **wage earners.** (=have a job and earn money) | *The government has introduced a* **wage freeze.** (=has said that wages must not be increased) | *The workers have asked for/demanded a* **wage rise** *of 10%.* —see also WAGES, MINIMUM WAGE

wage² *v* [T] to begin and continue (a war): *The government has pledged itself to wage (a) war against/on poverty and disease.*(=to try to end them)

wa·ger¹ /ˈweɪdʒəʳ/ *n fml* an amount of money risked on an uncertain result; BET: *Would you care to have/place a small wager on that?*

wager² *v* [T (**on**)] *fml for* BET²: [+(*that*)] *I'll wager he's had enough of foreign travel, after that!* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*+(*that*)] *She wagered me £5 that I would not do it.*

wag·es /ˈweɪdʒɨz/ *n* [P] a payment made for work done, calculated by the hour, day, or week or by the amount produced, and usu. received daily or weekly: *He gets/earns good wages.* | *low wages* | *to demand an increase in wages* —compare SALARY; see also WAGE¹; see PAY (USAGE)

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and the US it is usu. BLUE-COLLAR workers or MANUAL workers who receive **wages**, which are usu. paid in CASH. WHITE COLLAR workers receive a **salary**, which is paid into their bank account every month.◄

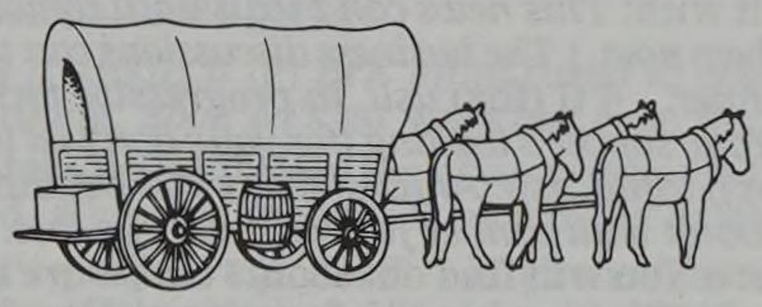
wage slave /ˈ· ·/ *n humor or derog* someone who must work, esp. at a dull job, in order to earn money

wag·gish /ˈwægɪʃ/ *adj infml* of, like, or typical of a WAG³: *waggish remarks* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

wag·gle /ˈwægəl/ *v* [I;T] *infml* to (cause to) move frequently from side to side: *The car's broken aerial waggled in the breeze.* | *He can waggle his ears.* —**waggle** *n*

Wag·ner /ˈvɑːgnəʳ/, **Richard** (1813–83) a German COMPOSER most famous for his long OPERAS including *The Flying Dutchman* and *The Ring of the Nibelung*

wagon



wag·on also **wag·gon** *BrE* /ˈwægən/ *n* **1** a strong four-wheeled road vehicle, mainly for heavy loads, drawn esp. by horses: *a covered wagon* | *The Indians attacked the pioneers'* **wagon train.** (=a long line of wagons used in 19th-century America) —see colour picture on page 358 **2** *BrE* a railway goods vehicle, esp. one with an open top **3** *esp. AmE* a TROLLEY (2): *a drinks wagon* **4** *AmE* a small, four-wheeled vehicle with an open top and a handle at the front, often coloured red and used by children as a toy: *Calvin sat down in his wagon and begged his dad to pull him along.* **5 on the wagon** *infml* no longer willing to drink alcohol

wag·on-lit /ˌvægɒn ˈliː‖ˈvɑːgən-/ *n* **wagons-lits** *(same pronunciation)* a SLEEPING CAR

wag·tail /ˈwægteɪl/ *n* a small European bird that moves its tail quickly up and down as it walks

waif /weɪf/ *n esp. lit* an uncared-for or homeless child or animal: *a pitiful little waif* | *The old lady loved cats, and took any* **waifs and strays** *into her home.*

Wai·ki·ki /waɪˈkiːki/ a BEACH in Hawaii near Honolulu

wail /weɪl/ *v* [I] *often derog* **1** to cry out with a long sound (as if) in grief or pain: *Stop weeping and wailing and do*

something about it! | *The wind wailed in the chimney all night.* | *"She's taken my apple, mummy," he wailed mournfully.* **2 wailing and gnashing of teeth** *humor* the crying, pain, etc. that is believed to take place in HELL —**wail** *n* [(*the*) S] : *the wail of the air-raid sirens*

Wailing Wall /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a length of high stone wall in Jerusalem where Jews come to pray as an act of PILGRIMAGE

wain·scot /ˈweɪnskət, -skɒt‖-skət, -skɑːt/ also **wain·scot·ting** /ˈweɪnskətɪŋ, -skɒt-‖-skət-, -skɑːt-/ [U]— *n* **1** a SKIRTING BOARD **2** a wooden covering on esp. the lower half of the walls of a room in an old house —~**ted** *adj*

waist /weɪst/ *n* **1** the narrow part of the human body below the chest: *a 24-inch waist* | *wearing a belt round his waist* **2** the part of a garment that goes round this part of the body: *She took in the waist of her dress.* **3** *tech* the narrow middle part of an apparatus, e.g. a stringed musical instrument **4** *tech* the middle part of a ship **5 -waisted** /weɪstɪd/**a** having a waist of the stated kind: *trim-waisted girls* **b** (of a garment) having a waist in the stated position relative to the wearer's waist: *high-waisted trousers*

waist·band /ˈweɪstbænd/ *n* the thickened or strengthened part of trousers, a skirt, etc., that fastens round the waist

waist·coat /ˈweɪskəʊt, ˈweskət‖ˈweskət/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **vest** *AmE*— *n* a close-fitting garment without arms that has buttons down the front and is usu. worn under a JACKET, esp. by men as part of a suit on formal occasions

waist·line /ˈweɪstlaɪn/ *n* (the length or position of) an imaginary line surrounding the waist at its narrowest part: *No sugar for me, thanks; I'm* **watching my waistline.** (=trying not to become fatter) | *a dress with a high waistline*

wait[1] /weɪt/ *v* **1** [I (**for, until,** ABOUT, AROUND)] to stay without doing anything until someone or something comes or something happens: *Hurry up! I'm waiting.* | *Wait a minute!* | *Wait for me!* | *We waited and waited but no one came.* | *Don't* **keep her waiting.** (=Don't make her wait.) | *We waited (for) 20 minutes for the bus.* | *I'm waiting for them (to arrive).* | *She waited anxiously/impatiently for him to make up his mind.* | *I can't wait until then; I'm going now.* | *I'm fed up with all this waiting around!* [+*to-v*] *Are you waiting to use the phone?* | *I* **can't wait** *to* (=I am very eager to) *tell them the good news!* | *Here,* **wait a minute** (used for getting attention); *isn't that my car?* | *The sign says "No Waiting".* (=you are not allowed to park here) **2** [T] to delay acting until (the stated occasion): *You can't have it yet; you'll have to* **wait your turn.** | *He was just waiting his chance to get his revenge.* **3** [I (**until**)] to remain unspoken, unheard, or not dealt with: *This news can't wait until tomorrow; I'll phone them now.* | *The business discussions can wait until after dinner.* **4** [I (**for**) *usu. in progressive forms*] to be ready: *Your supper's waiting (for you); don't let it get cold.* **5** [T (**for**)] *infml, esp. AmE* to delay the beginning of (a meal): *Don't wait dinner for me; I will be late.* **6 wait and see: a** You will find out soon: *"Where are we going, mummy?" "Wait and see!"* **b** to wait until the future becomes clearer: *I don't think my boss will let me, but I'll just have to wait and see.* **7 wait at table** *BrE fml* ‖ **wait on table, wait tables** *AmE*— to serve meals, esp. as a regular job —see also WAIT **on** (1)

▷ USAGE Compare **await, wait for,** and **expect.** If you **await** (*fml*) or **wait for** someone who will come or something that will happen, you arrange your timetable or actions so that you are ready, perhaps staying still and doing nothing else but **wait:** *"Why are you standing there?" "I'm* **waiting** *for John (to come)."* | *"I'm* **waiting** *to use that machine."* If you **expect** someone or something, you think the person will come or the event will happen, but you will probably not stay still because of this, and may not even make special arrangements: *I'm* **expecting** *guests.* | *We're* **expecting** *a cold winter.* | *I* **expect** *to* (=think I will) *be here for another hour.* | *Mother* **expects** *me to* (=has told me to and thinks I will) *feed the baby.* **Waiting** is a sort of activity, **expecting** is a state of mind.◁

wait on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to serve food to, esp. in a restaurant **2** to wait for; to have not yet received: *We're still waiting on the result of the 4.30 race.* **3** also **wait upon**— *old use* to make a formal visit to (someone) **4 wait on someone hand and foot** to serve someone with everything they want: *Don't expect me to wait on you hand and foot; make your own breakfast!*

wait up *phr v* [I (**for**)] *infml* **1** to delay going to bed: *Don't wait up (for me); I'll be home very late.* **2** *AmE* to stop while walking or running so that someone behind can come alongside: *Hey, John! Wait up, will you.*

wait[2] *n* [S (**for**)] an act or period of waiting: *We had a long wait for the bus.* | *The murderer was* **lying in wait** *for* (=hiding, waiting to attack) *his victim.*

Waite /weɪt/, **Ter·ry** /ˈteri/ (1939–) a British adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury who went to the Middle East to try to obtain the freedom of some Western HOSTAGES. He was himself taken as a hostage and held for four years until he was released in 1991.

wait·er /ˈweɪtəʳ/ *n* a man who serves food at the tables in a restaurant: *"Waiter! The menu, please."* | *a wine waiter* —see FATHER (USAGE), and

Waiting for God·ot /ˌweɪtɪŋ fə ˈgɒdəʊ‖-fər ˈgɑː-/ an often-performed play by Samuel Beckett, about two men waiting for a third who never comes. People often use the phrase in situations of waiting for something they do not expect to come: *I think waiting for this bus to turn up is like waiting for Godot.*

waiting game /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [S] delaying to see what happens before taking action: *The government is playing a waiting game with the unions that are on strike.*

waiting list /ˈ·· ·/ ‖ also **wait·list** /ˈweɪtlɪst/ *AmE infml*— *n* a list of people who have asked for something but cannot be given it at once: *I'm afraid there are no vacancies at the moment, but I can put you on the waiting list.*

waiting room /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a room for people to wait in, e.g. for people waiting to see a doctor, in a station, etc.

wait·list·ed /ˈweɪtlɪstɨd/ *adj* included on a waiting list, esp. for a seat on a plane: *We're waitlisted for tomorrow's flight.*

wait·ress /ˈweɪtrɨs/ *n* a woman who serves food at the tables in a restaurant

Wait·rose /ˈweɪtrəʊz/ one of a group of SUPERMARKETS in Britain which sells GROCERIES

waive /weɪv/ *v* [T] *esp. fml or tech* to state officially that (a right, rule, etc.) is no longer in effect: *We cannot waive this rule except in case of illness.* | *He has waived all claim to the money.*

waiv·er /ˈweɪvəʳ/ *n law* (a written statement giving proof of) waiving a right, claim, etc.: *Please sign this waiver.*

wake[1] /weɪk/ *v* **woke** /wəʊk/ *or* **waked, woken** /ˈwəʊkən/ *or* **waked** [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) stop sleeping: *She usually wakes (up) early.* | *I woke up with a start when the alarm rang.* | *Wake up, Jimmy, it's 7.00!* | *The children's shouts woke us out of/from our afternoon nap.* | (fig.) *The bad news finally woke the country to* (=made it become conscious of) *the danger of war.* | (fig.) *The argument woke old rivalries.*

▷ USAGE Compare **wake (up), waken (up), awake** and **awaken.** The usual patterns are: *I* **woke (up)** [I], *I* **woke** *him* **(up)** [T], *I* **awoke** (I), *I* **wakened** *him* **up** [T] and *I* **awakened** *him* [T], but all of these verbs can be used in both intransitive and transitive patterns. The most common and least formal is probably **wake up/wake** *someone* **up.**◁

wake up *phr v* [I *usu. imperative*] *infml* to start to pay attention: *Wake up at the back there!*

wake[2] *n* **1** a track left by a ship in water —compare WASH[2] **2 in the wake of: a** close behind and in the same path of travel as: *The car left clouds of dust in its wake.* **b** as a result of: *Hunger and disease followed in the wake of the war.*

wake[3] *n* a gathering to watch and grieve over a dead person on the night before the burial, sometimes with drink and special food, esp. in Ireland, northern parts of Britain, and in the US among Catholics

wake·ful /ˈweɪkfəl/ *adj* not sleeping or in which one cannot sleep; sleepless: *a wakeful baby/night* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

wak·en /ˈweɪkən/ *v* [I;T (UP)] *fml* to (cause to) wake: *We were wakened by a loud noise.* —see WAKE (USAGE)

wakes week /ˈ· ·/ a holiday week for factory and office workers in the N of England, when the whole business closed down for a period. The arrangement has largely been discontinued, but the times of these holidays, which varied

from town to town, are often still called by this name.

wak·ey wak·ey /ˌweɪki ˈweɪki/ *interj BrE infml humor* wake up!

wak·ing /ˈweɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] of the time when one is awake: *He spends all his* **waking hours** *working.* | *a waking dream*

Wal·den Pond /ˌwɔːldən ˈpɒnd‖-ˈpɑːnd/ a small body of water (POND) in Massachusetts in the US near which Henry David Thoreau lived and after which he named his book *Walden, or Life in the Woods*

Wald·heim /ˈvɑːldhaɪm‖ˈwɔːld-/, **Kurt** /kɜːt‖kɜːrt/ (1918–) the secretary general of the UN from 1972 to 1981 and president of Austria since 1986. He has often been in the news because of CONTROVERSY in connection with his actions as a German army officer during the Second World War.

Wal·dorf-As·to·ri·a /ˌwɔːldɔːf æˈstɔːriə ‖ -dɔːrf-/ [*the*] a large, expensive hotel in New York City

Waldorf Sal·ad /ˌwɔːldɔːf ˈsæləd ‖ -dɔːrf-/ *n* a dish made of apples, CELERY, nuts, and MAYONNAISE, eaten cold

Wales /weɪlz/ a country in the United Kingdom; capital Cardiff. Wales has high mountains, including Mount Snowdon. There is much AGRICULTURE in the N with the main industries, esp. COALMINING, being in the S. The Welsh language is spoken widely, esp. in the N, and is still the first language for many people. The national SYMBOLS of Wales are the LEEK, the DAFFODIL, and the red DRAGON. The PATRON SAINT of Wales is Saint David. —see colour map on page 818

Wales, Prince of the title of the HEIR to the British THRONE. The present Prince of Wales is Prince Charles.

Wa·les·a /vəˈwensə‖vəˈlensə, wə-/, **Lech** /lek, lex/ (1943–) the Polish leader of the TRADE UNION Solidarity. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 and became president of Poland after the Communist government failed.

walk[1] /wɔːk/ *v* **1** [I] to move along on foot in a natural way, in such a way that one foot is always touching the ground: *Walk, don't run!* | *When it's a nice day I walk to work, otherwise I go by bus.* | *We must have walked ten miles today.* | *Walking is a good form of exercise.* | *The old lady walked slowly round the garden.* | *He walked along the edge of the cliff.* | *I walked up to him and held out my hand.* **2** [T] to pass over, through, or along on foot: *She'd walked the streets all night looking for somewhere to stay.* | *He does a circus act, walking the tightrope.* | *How far is the station; can I walk it* (=is the distance short enough to walk) *or shall I call a taxi?* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to go on foot with (someone) to a stated place: *I'll walk you home/to the bus stop.* **4** [T] to take (an animal) for a walk; exercise: *He's walking the dog.* **5** [I] (of a spirit) to move about in a form that can be seen **6** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cause to move in a manner suggesting a walk: *Let's walk the heaviest ladder to the other end of the room.* **7** [I;T] (in BASEBALL) to be allowed to go to the first of four points (BASES[1] (6)) because the PITCHER[2] has thrown four balls outside the area he is aiming at: *The pitcher was taken out of the game after walking four batters in a row.* | *Garvey walked to first base.* **8 walk on air** *infml* to be extremely happy: *"Is he pleased?" "Yes – he's walking on air!"* **9 walk someone off their feet/legs** *infml* to tire someone by making them walk too much **10 walk tall** *infml* to feel very confident; be justly proud of oneself **11 walk the plank** to be forced, esp. by PIRATES in former times, to walk along a board laid over the side of a ship until one falls off into the sea

walk away from sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to come out of (an accident) unhurt or almost unhurt **2** *AmE infml* to run faster than or defeat without difficulty: *My horse just walked away from all the others in the race.* —see also WALKAWAY, WALK **off with**

walk into sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to get caught by (something) through carelessness: *He walked right into our trap.* **2** to obtain (a job) very easily

walk off/away with sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to steal and take away **2** to win easily: *He walked off with first prize.*

walk out *phr v* [I (**of**)] **1** to leave suddenly, esp. as an expression of disapproval **2** to go on STRIKE —see also WALKOUT

walk out on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to leave suddenly, esp. in a time of trouble; desert: *He just walked out on his wife and family without saying a word!*

walk over sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to treat badly: *Don't let your husband walk (all) over you like that; stand up to him!* **2** to win without difficulty against: *Our team just walked over the opposition.* —see also WALKOVER

walk sthg. **through** *phr v* [T] to practise (e.g. a part in a play) before the performance; REHEARSE (1): *Let's walk through this scene and see how long it takes.* | *I'd like to walk through this evacuation procedure with you before I do it on my own.* —see also WALK-THROUGH

walk up *phr v* [I *usu. imperative*] *infml* (used when inviting people to come in and see a performance, esp. outdoors, such as a CIRCUS) to enter: *Walk up, ladies and gentlemen!*

walk[2] *n* **1** [S] a natural way of moving on foot in which a person's feet are lifted one at a time, in such a way that one foot is always touching the ground: *He set off at a brisk walk.* **2** [S] the movement of creatures with four legs in which there are always at least two feet on the ground: *He slowed the horse into a walk.* **3** [C] a usu. short journey on foot, esp. for exercise or pleasure: *Let's go for/take a (short) walk.* | *She's taken the dog for a walk.* | *a ten-mile walk* | *a sponsored walk* | *a space walk* **4** [C] a place, path, or course for walking: *There are some beautiful walks in Sussex.* **5** [S] a distance to be walked: *The station's just a few miles' walk/a ten-minute walk from here.* **6** [S] the manner or style of walking: *His walk is just like his father's.* | *an odd walk* —see also WALK OF LIFE **7** [C] (in BASEBALL) the going to the first of four points (BASES[1] (6)) without having to hit the ball because the PITCHER[2] has thrown four balls outside the area he must aim at: *The pitcher threw four walks in a row before being removed from the game.*

walk·a·bout /ˈwɔːkəbaʊt/ *n* **1** a period spent, esp. by an Australian ABORIGINE, away from regular work travelling about on foot through the country **2** *infml, esp. BrE* a walk through crowds by an important person, mixing and talking informally with the people: *The Queen did her now-traditional walkabout in the main square.*

walk·a·way /ˈwɔːkəweɪ/ *n AmE infml* an easy victory: *That race was just a walkaway for my horse.* —see also WALK **away from** (2)

walk·er /ˈwɔːkəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who walks, esp. for pleasure or exercise: *a fast walker* | *a keen hill-walker* **2** an apparatus for helping someone to walk, esp. a frame used by babies or people who cannot walk properly —compare ZIMMER

Walker, Al·ice /ˈælɨs/ (1944–) a black American writer of stories and poetry. Her most famous NOVEL is *The Color Purple*, which won the Pulitzer Prize.

Walker Cup /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] a GOLF competition between two teams, one British and one American, of non-professional male golfers

walk·ies /ˈwɔːkiz/ *n* [P] *BrE infml* (used to dogs) a walk: *Come along, Spot; let's* **go walkies!** (=go for a walk)

walk·ie-talk·ie /ˌwɔːki ˈtɔːki/ *n* a two-way radio that can be carried, allowing one to talk as well as listen

walk-in /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *esp. AmE* **1** large enough to be walked into: *a walk-in closet* **2** easy (esp. in the phrase **walk-in victory**)

walk·ing /ˈwɔːkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** used in the process of moving on foot: *walking shoes* **2** consisting of or done by travelling on foot: *a walking holiday/tour* **3** *infml* human: *She knows so many words that she's a walking dictionary!*

walking pa·pers /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [P] *AmE infml for* MARCHING ORDERS

walking stick /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a stick used for supporting someone while walking —see picture at STICK **2** *AmE for* STICK INSECT

Walk·man /ˈwɔːkmən/ *n tdmk for* PERSONAL STEREO

walk of life /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* a position in society, esp. either one's job or one's social rank: *The club's membership includes people from* **all walks of life/every walk of life.**

walk-on /ˈ· ·/ *n* (someone who has) a small usu. non-speaking part in a play: *a walk-on part*

walk·out /ˈwɔːk-aʊt/ *n* **1** the action of leaving a meeting or organization as an expression of disapproval: *a walkout by/of the Russian delegation* **2** a STRIKE[2] (1), esp. at its start: *The walkout was caused by a disagreement over pay and working conditions.* | *The union* **staged a walkout** *over the issue.* —see also WALK **out**

walk·o·ver /ˈwɔːkˌəʊvəʳ/ *n infml* **1** an easy victory **2** an advance from one part of a competition to the next without having to compete against anyone, because of the sickness or WITHDRAWAL of one's opponent —see also WALK **over**

walk-through /ˈ· ·/ *n* the actions of practising a part or PROCEDURE; a REHEARSAL —see also WALK **through**

walk-up /ˈ· ·/ *n, adj* [C;A] *AmE infml* **1** (a flat, office, etc.) in a tall block with no LIFT[2] (2): *It's not easy living in a 6th-floor walk-up.* **2** (a block of flats) that is tall but has no LIFT[2] (2)

walk·way /ˈwɔːkweɪ/ *n* a road or path, etc. built esp. for people to walk on: *a pedestrian walkway | Let's cross over on the walkway.*

wall[1] /wɔːl/ *n* **1** also **walls** *pl.*— an upright dividing surface, esp. of stone or brick, intended for defence or safety, or for enclosing something: *The garden was surrounded by a high brick wall. | a garden|cellar wall | the ancient city walls of Cairo* | (fig.) *A wall of fire advanced through the dry forest.* | (fig.) *Our enquiries were met by a wall of silence.* (=no one would tell us anything) —compare FENCE[1] (1); see also CHINESE WALL **2** the side of a building or room: *He painted the walls blue. | Hang that picture on the wall. | a wall plaque* **3** the covering or inner surface of something hollow: *the walls of a blood vessel* **4 to the wall** *BrE* into a hopeless position: *Unless the company gets some more investment soon it will go to the wall.* (=be ruined) **5 up the wall** *infml* in or into a state of great anger or near madness **6 Walls have ears** *infml* Other people may hear us —see also OFF-THE-WALL, **have one's back to the wall** (BACK[1]), **bang one's head against a brick wall** (HEAD[1]), **the writing is on the wall** (WRITING)

wall[2] *v* [T] to provide, cover, or surround with a wall: *an old walled town in Portugal*

wall sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T(**from**)] to separate or close with one or more walls: *This part of the house is walled off (from the rest of the house).*

wall sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to close (an opening) with a wall: *The door had been walled up.* **2** also **wall in**— to build a wall in order to keep (someone or something) in: *The prisoner was walled up by his captors.*

Wal·la·bies /ˈwɒləbiːz‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* [P] Australia's international Rugby Union team

wal·la·by /ˈwɒləbi‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* a small Australian animal related to the KANGAROO

Wal·lace /ˈwɒlɨs ‖ ˈwɑː-/, **Ed·gar** /ˈedgəʳ/ (1875–1932) a British writer, well known for his crime stories, many of which were filmed for television

Wallace, George (1919–) an American politician who has served several times as the governor of Alabama and has also run for president. Wallace is remembered for trying to prevent INTEGRATION (=mixing of black and white children) in Alabama schools because he believed the state laws should be followed rather than the national laws if the two laws were different. He is considered to be a supporter of STATE'S RIGHTS and is also often considered to be a RACIST. In 1972 he was shot and has had to move around in a WHEELCHAIR since then.

Wallace, Sir William (died 1305) a Scottish leader in the fight for independence from the English, who was hanged in London but is remembered as a popular HERO (1)

wal·lah, -la /ˈwɒlə‖ˈwɑːlə/ *n IndE & PakE* a person, usu. male, who has the stated type of work or does the stated duty or service: *the book wallah*

wall·chart /ˈwɔːltʃɑːt‖-ɑːrt/ *n* a large piece of paper with information on it, often in pictures, that is fastened to a wall, esp. in a classroom

Wal·ler /ˈwɒləʳ‖ˈwɑː-/, **Fats** /fæts/ (1904–43) an American JAZZ piano player, songwriter, and bandleader who influenced many other musicians and was known for his humorous performances

wal·let /ˈwɒlɨt‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* **1** ‖ also **billfold** *AmE*— a small flat leather case, for holding papers and paper money, carried esp. by a man: *He opened|closed|folded his wallet.* —compare PURSE[1] (1), and see picture at PURSE **2** *AmE* a PURSE **3** a long leather case for official papers

wall-eyed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj AmE* having an eye or both eyes which show too much white because the IRIS points to the side rather than straight ahead

wall·flow·er /ˈwɔːlˌflaʊəʳ/ *n* **1** a garden plant with sweet-smelling yellow or red flowers **2** *infml* a person who does not share (fully) in a social activity because of lack of CONFIDENCE or unpopularity, esp. a woman who has not been invited to dance

Wal·lis /ˈwɒlɨs ‖ ˈwɑː-/, **Sir Barnes** (1887–1979) an English aircraft engineer and inventor, remembered esp. for developing the BOUNCING BOMBs used against the Germans during the Second World War —see also BOUNCING BOMB, DAM BUSTERS

Wal·loon /wɒˈluːn ‖ wɑː-/ *n* **1** a French-speaking person of S and SE Belgium **2** [U] the French DIALECT of the Walloons —compare FLEMISH[1]

wal·lop[1] /ˈwɒləp‖ˈwɑː-/ *n infml* a powerful blow: *I gave him a real wallop.*

wallop[2] *v* [T] *infml* **1** to hit hard **2** [(**at**)] to defeat thoroughly, esp. in a game: *He walloped me at tennis.*

wal·lop·ing /ˈwɒləpɪŋ‖ˈwɑː-/ *adj* [A] *infml* very big: *a walloping (great) house in the country*

wal·low[1] /ˈwɒləʊ‖ˈwɑː-/ *v* [I (**in**)] **1** to move, roll, or lie about happily in deep mud, dirt, water, etc., as some animals do: *Pigs like wallowing in the mud.* | (fig.) *Don't just wallow in self-pity; do something about your problems!* **2** (of a ship) to roll and struggle in a rough sea: *The ship wallowed helplessly among the great waves.*

wallow[2] *n* **1** [S (**in**)] an act of wallowing **2** [C] a place where animals come to wallow

wall paint·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a picture actually painted on a wall, not just hung on one, esp. a FRESCO

wall·pa·per[1] /ˈwɔːlˌpeɪpəʳ/ *n* [C;U] (a particular) decorative paper (for) covering the walls of a room: *We've put up|hung (a) plain|patterned wallpaper in the bedroom.* | *a roll of wallpaper*

wallpaper[2] *v* [T] to cover the walls of (a room) with wallpaper

Wall's /wɔːlz/ also **Wall's ice cream** /ˌ· ˈ· ·/— *n* [U] *tdmk* a well-known British variety of ice cream

Wall Street /ˈ· ·/ (a street in New York City which is) the influential American centre for money matters and the buying and selling of business shares: *a Wall Street stockbroker* —compare CITY and see colour map on page 1376

Wall Street Crash /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a sudden loss of confidence in the US STOCK MARKET after a period of rapidly increasing prices which leads to very low SHARE prices and general economic problems. The worst example of this was in 1929, which led to the Great Depression.

Wall Street Jour·nal /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] an American daily newspaper which prints articles on business, economics, and world news

wall-to-wall /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** (of a floor covering) over the whole floor: *wall-to-wall carpeting* **2** [A] *infml, sometimes derog* filling up all the possible space or time; continuous: *Our stereo gives wall-to-wall sound. | wall-to-wall advertising on TV*

wal·ly /ˈwɒli‖ˈwɑː-/ *n BrE infml* a foolish or useless person, esp. male

Wal-Mart /ˈwɔːl mɑːt‖-mɑːrt/ one of a group of US shops that sell many different kinds of goods at low prices

wal·nut /ˈwɔːlnʌt/ *n* **1** [C] (a tree that produces) an eatable nut shaped like a human brain: *a coffee and walnut cake* —see picture at NUT **2** [U] the wood of this tree, considered to be excellent for furniture: *a walnut bureau*

Wal·pole /ˈwɔːlpəʊl/, **Rob·ert** /ˈrɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt/ (1676–1745) a British Whig politician who is usu. described as the first British PRIME MINISTER

wal·rus /ˈwɔːlrəs‖ˈwɔːl-, ˈwɑːl-/ *n* **-ruses** *or* **-rus** a large sea-animal, like a very large SEAL, with two long teeth (TUSKs) standing out from the face and pointing downwards —see picture at SEAL

walrus mous·tache /ˌ·· ·ˈ·‖ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a thick MOUSTACHE hanging down at both ends

Walt Disney see Walt DISNEY

Walt Dis·ney World /ˌwɔːlt ˈdɪzni ˌwɜːld ‖ -ˌwɜːrld/ *tdmk* the official name for DISNEYWORLD

Wal·ters /ˈwɔːltəz‖-ərz/, **Al·an** /ˈælən/ (1927–) a British ECONOMIST and adviser to Margaret Thatcher from 1981–89

Walters, Bar·ba·ra /ˈbɑːbərə‖ˈbɑːr-/ (1931–) an

American television personality best known for her INTERVIEWS (=recorded conversations) with famous people

Wal·ton /ˈwɔːltən/, **Bill** (1952–) an American BASKETBALL player

Walton, Sir William (1902–83) an English COMPOSER, best known for the ORATORIO *Belshazzar's Feast* and for the music for the film *Henry V*

Waltons /ˈwɔːltənz/, **The** a television programme about a family called the Waltons, living in the American state of Virginia in the early 1900s during the Great Depression. The family is very large, and the best-known character is **Johnboy**, who records his family's experiences in his DIARY. The stories and morals of **The Waltons** are old-fashioned, and many people find them too simple for today's world.

waltz[1] /wɔːls‖wɔːlts/ *n* **1** a rather slow formal dance for a man and a woman, performed esp. in a BALLROOM **2** music for this dance: *Strauss waltzes*

waltz[2] *v* **1** [I (**round**)] to dance a waltz **2** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to go easily, successfully, or confidently: *We can't just waltz up to a complete stranger and introduce ourselves.* | *He waltzed through the exam.* (=passed it easily) **3** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *infml* to take suddenly or roughly: *The police waltzed him off to jail.*

waltz off with sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to WALK **off with**

Waltzing Matilda /ˌwɔːlsɪŋ məˈtɪldə‖ˌwɔːlts-/ an Australian song, often thought of as the national song of the country

Wal·worth Road /ˌwɔːlwəθ ˈrəʊd‖ˌwɔːlwəːrθ-/ the place in SE London where the Labour Party has its central office

wam·pum /ˈwɒmpəm‖ˈwɑːm-/ *n* [U] shells put into strings, belts, etc., and formerly used as money or decoration by Native Americans

wan /wɒn‖wɑːn/ *adj esp. lit* (appearing) ill, weak, and tired: *a wan smile* | *The child looked pale and wan.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

wand /wɒnd‖wɑːnd/ *n* a thin stick carried in the hand, esp. by a person who does magic tricks: *The conjurer waved his* **magic wand** *and pulled a rabbit out of the hat.*

wan·der /ˈwɒndəʳ‖ˈwɑːn-/ *v* **1** [I (ABOUT, OFF);T] to move about or away from (an area), usu. on foot, without a fixed course, aim, or purpose: *Look at that little boy wandering about – perhaps he's lost his mother.* | *Johnny's wandered off somewhere.* | *Nomadic tribes wander these deserts.* | *the wandering tribes of the Sahara* | *a wandering minstrel* | (fig.) *The river wanders* (=follows a winding course) *through some very beautiful country.* **2** [I (**from, off,** OFF)] to move away from the main idea: *Don't wander off the point.* **3** [I] (of a person or thoughts) to be or become confused and unable to make or follow ordinary conversation: *I'm afraid my father's mind is wandering; he's 94, you know.* **4 I wandered lonely as a cloud** *quote* the first line of the poem *Daffodils* by William Wordsworth —see also DAFFODIL —**~er** *n*

wan·der·ings /ˈwɒndərɪŋz‖ˈwɑːn-/ *n* [P] movement from place to place, esp. away from the proper or usual course or place: *You must have seen a lot of strange things in your wanderings.*

wan·der·lust /ˈwɒndəlʌst‖ˈwɑːndər-/ *n* [S;U] a strong desire to travel to faraway places

Wands·worth /ˈwɒndzwəθ ‖ ˈwɑːndzwərθ/ **1** a BOROUGH in S London, known esp. for its prison **2** the prison at Wandsworth

wane[1] /weɪn/ *v* [I] to grow gradually smaller or less after being full or complete: *The moon* **waxes and wanes** *every month.* | *the waning power of the Roman Empire in the 5th century*

wane[2] *n* **on the wane** becoming smaller, weaker, or less: *By now the power of the Roman Empire was on the wane.*

wan·gle /ˈwæŋgəl/ *v* [T (**into, out of**)] *infml* **1** to obtain, persuade, etc., by cleverness or a trick: *I wangled an invitation (out of George).* | *I wangled George into giving me an invitation.* **2 wangle one's way into/out of** to get into (a good situation) or out of (a difficulty) by cleverness or a trick —**wangle** *n*

wank[1] /wæŋk/ *v* [I] *BrE taboo sl for* MASTURBATE

wank[2] *n* [S] *BrE taboo sl* an act of wanking

wank·er /ˈwæŋkəʳ/ *n BrE taboo sl* a foolish or useless person

wan·na /ˈwɒnə‖ˈwɑː-/ **1** want to **2** want a

▷USAGE **Want to** and **want a** are sometimes pronounced in this way. They may be written **wanna** in stories to show an informal, and especially American English, way of speaking: *I don't* **wanna** *go.* (=I don't want to go.) | **Wanna** *drink*? (=Do you want a drink?)◁

wan·na·be /ˈwɒnəbi‖ˈwɑː-/ *n esp. AmE* want to be; a person who wants to be like another person, esp. someone famous, and so wears similar clothes and tries to act like that person: *Madonna wannabes* —compare WOULD BE

want[1] /wɒnt‖wɔːnt, wɑːnt/ *v* [*not usu. in progressive forms*] **1** [T] to have a strong desire for: *I want a drink.* | *Ask him what he wants.* | *What do you want for your birthday?* (=What present would you like?) [+*to-v*] *Do you want to go now?* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *He wants you to wait here.* [+*obj*+*adj/v-ed*] *I want that letter ready/typed by tomorrow.* [+*obj*+*v-ing; usu. in negatives*] *I don't want people coming in and out all day.* (=I would not like it and will not allow it) | (*infml*) *She's been wanting to go to Japan for years.* **2** [T *often pass.*] to wish or demand the presence of: *Your mother wants you.* | *The second team will not be wanted this afternoon.* **3** [T (**for**) *often pass.*] (esp. of the police) to hunt or look for, esp. in order to catch: *He is wanted for murder/for questioning.* | *a wanted man* **4** [T] *infml* to need: *The house wants a new coat of paint.* [+*v-ing*] *This job wants doing at once.* **5** [T+*to-v*; *obj*] *esp. BrE infml* ought: *You want to see a doctor about your cough.* | *You don't want* (=ought not) *to work so hard.* | *The work wants to be done with great care.* **6** [I;T] *fml* to suffer from the lack (of): *In poorer countries many people still want food and shelter.* —see also WANT **for** **7** [I+IN or OUT] *AmE infml or ScotE* to wish to come or go: *The cat wants in/out.* **8 want some doing** *infml* to need a great deal of effort

▷USAGE **I want (to)** is rather a strong way of expressing a wish, and it may not seem polite to the person you are speaking to. **I'd like (to)** is often more suitable. —see also LIKE[1] (USAGE), WANNA (USAGE)◁

want for sthg. *phr v* [T *usu. in questions and negatives*] *fml* (of a person) to lack (esp. food, clothing, shelter, money, love, etc.): *The children have never wanted for anything.* (=have always had everything they needed)

want[2] *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] (a) lack, absence, or need: *All his wants were satisfied/supplied.* (=He was given everything he needed.) | *The plants died for/from want of water.* | *I'll take this one for want of a better.* (=because there isn't a better one) **2** [U] *fml* severe lack of the things necessary to life: *They had lived all their lives in want.* **3 in want of** *fml* in need of: *The house is in want of repair.*

want ad /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* CLASSIFIED AD

want·ed /ˈwɒntɨd‖ˈwɔːn-, ˈwɑːn-/ *adj* being looked for by the police in connection with the one or more crimes: *He is wanted for the murder of a teenage girl.* | *France's most wanted criminal*

want·ing /ˈwɒntɪŋ‖ˈwɔːn-, ˈwɑːn-/ *adj* [F] **1** [+**in**] *fml* lacking: *wanting in gratitude* (=ungrateful) **2** [(**in**)] *fml* not good enough or strong enough: *The invention was tested and* **found wanting.** **3** *euph* weak-minded

wan·ton /ˈwɒntən‖ˈwɔːn-, ˈwɑːn-/ *adj* **1** (of something bad) having no just cause or no good reason: *wanton cruelty* | *a wanton waste of money* **2** *fml* (esp. of a woman) sexually improper; PROMISCUOUS: *wanton behaviour/glances* **3** *fml* uncontrolled: *wanton growth of plant life in the tropical rain forest* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

wap·i·ti /ˈwɒpɨti‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* **-tis** *or* **-ti** a very large N American deer

Wap·ping /ˈwɒpɪŋ‖ˈwɑː-/ an area in E London where certain British national newspapers are produced

war /wɔːʳ/ *n* **1** [U] armed fighting between nations: *They went to war over the violation of their airspace.* | *The two countries have been* **at war** *(with each other) for years.* | *We must* **go to war against/declare war on** (=begin an armed struggle against) *our enemies.* | *The Allies* **waged war on/against** *Hitler.* **2** [C] an example or period of this. When British people talk about "the war", they usu. mean the Second World War: *He fought in both World Wars.* | *to provoke a war* | *the American War of Independence* | *a war of attrition* | *a war memorial* | *war graves* | *a war hero/veteran* | *war poets* (=writing during, and about, the war) | *a nuclear war* | *the war-torn city of Beirut* **3** [C;U] a struggle between opposing forces or for a particular purpose: *the war against disease* | *the oil-price war*

4 in the wars *infml* having been hurt or damaged – compare BATTLE[1] (1); see also CIVIL WAR, COLD WAR, PRISONER OF WAR, STAR WARS, WARRING

War and Peace /ˌ· · ˈ·/ a NOVEL by Leo Tolstoy, set during the Napoleonic Wars. It is sometimes used as an example of a very long book: *I was waiting so long I could have read "War and Peace".*

War Be·tween the States /ˌ· ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] the American Civil War. This expression is used mainly by people in the South of the US.

war·ble /ˈwɔːbəl‖ˈwɔːr-/ *v* [I] (esp. of a bird) to sing with a clear, continuous, yet varied note –**warble** *n* [S]

war·bler /ˈwɔːbləʳ‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* **1** any of various songbirds **2** *humor* an esp. female singer

war bon·net /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a kind of hat with many feathers sewn onto it worn by some Native Americans either formerly or now in ceremonies

war bride /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a woman who marries a foreign soldier (who is in her country because of war): *My father's American but my mother is English – she was a war bride.*

war cab·i·net /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* a group of very important British government ministers who meet to discuss the progress of a war

war chest /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE infml* the money a government has which it can spend on a war

war clouds /ˈ· ·/ *n* [P] signs that war is getting more likely: *War clouds were gathering over Europe in the summer of 1939.*

war crime /ˈ· ·/ *n* an illegal and usu. cruel act during a war, such as the mistreatment of prisoners or the murder of many harmless people –**war criminal** /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n*

war cry /ˈ· ·/ also **battle cry**– *n* **1** a shout used by people fighting a war to show their courage and make the enemy afraid **2** a short statement, easy to remember, used for getting people to do something or oppose something, esp. in politics; SLOGAN: *"Equal Rights for Women!" was their war cry.*

War Cry, The the weekly newspaper of the Salvation Army

ward[1] /wɔːd‖wɔːrd/ *n* **1** a large room in a hospital, usu. for people needing similar treatment: *the maternity ward | the casualty ward* **2** a division of a city, esp. for political or management purposes: *Which ward does she represent on the local council?* –compare CONSTITUENCY **3** a person, esp. a child, who is under the protection of another person or of a law court: *Everyone was shocked when he married his young ward. | They are* **wards of court**/*of the state.* –compare GUARDIAN (2)

ward[2] *v*

ward sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to prevent (something bad, such as danger, a blow, a cold, etc.); keep away or at a distance: *Brushing your teeth regularly helps to ward off tooth decay. | a necklace to ward off evil spirits*

war dance /ˈ· ·/ *n* a dance performed esp. by tribes in preparation for battle or after a victory

war·den /ˈwɔːdn‖ˈwɔːrdn/ *n* **1** a person who looks after a place (and people): *the warden of an old people's home* **2** an official who helps to see that certain laws are obeyed: *an air-raid warden* –see also TRAFFIC WARDEN **3** *AmE* the head of a prison; GOVERNOR –see also CHURCHWARDEN

ward·er /ˈwɔːdəʳ‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n BrE* a prison guard

war·drobe /ˈwɔːdrəʊb‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **closet** *AmE*– a large cupboard built in to a wall in which one hangs up clothes **2** a tall piece of furniture in which one hangs up clothes **3** a collection of clothes, esp. of one person or for one activity: *a summer wardrobe* **4** a collection of special clothes to be worn on stage: *The* **wardrobe mistress** *is in charge of the costumes.*

ward·room /ˈwɔːdrʊm, -ruːm‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* the space in a warship where the officers live and eat, except for the captain

Ward's /wɔːdz‖wɔːrdz/ *infml for* MONTGOMERY WARD AND CO.

ware·house /ˈweəhaʊs‖ˈweər-/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ a large building for storing things, esp. things that are to be sold

wares /weəz‖weərz/ *n* [P] *esp. lit* small articles for sale, usu. not in a shop: *a pedlar's wares*

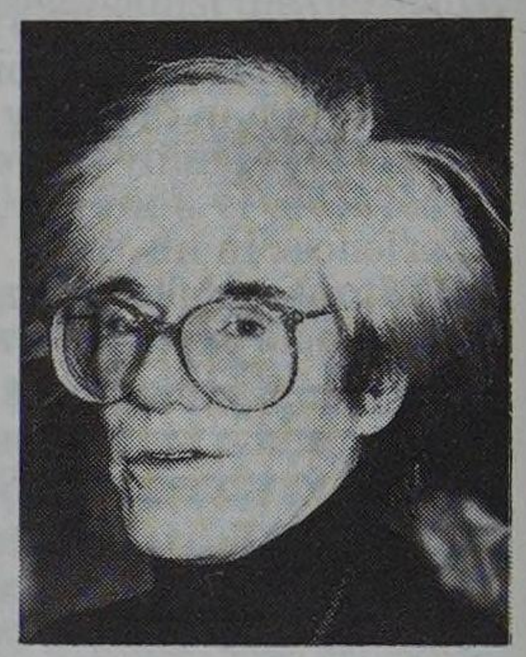
war·fare /ˈwɔːfeəʳ‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* [U] military activity against an enemy; war: *to ban chemical warfare | guerrilla warfare |* (fig.) *economic warfare* –see also BIOLOGICAL WARFARE, GERM WARFARE, PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

war game /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* **1** a pretended battle to test military plans **2** a game played with models of soldiers, horses, etc., by adults

war·head /ˈwɔːhed‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* the explosive front end of a bomb or esp. MISSILE: *nuclear warheads trained on army bases*

War·hol /ˈwɔːhəʊl‖ˈwɔːr-/, **An·dy** /ˈændi/ (1928–87) an American artist famous in the POP ART movement. He is most well-known for pictures of soup cans and of Marilyn Monroe.

Andy Warhol



war·horse /ˈwɔːhɔːs‖ˈwɔːrhɔːrs/ *n* **1** (esp. in former times) a horse for use in war; CHARGER[1] **2** *infml* a soldier or a usu. male person in public life, such as a politician, who has seen a lot of action and is still eager for more **3** *infml, often derog* something frequently seen, heard, used, etc.: *Tchaikovsky's piano concerto, an old warhorse of the concert repertoire*

war·i·ly /ˈweərɨli/ *adv* in a very careful way, looking for danger: *"Do you like vodka?" "Yes. Why?" she said warily.* –**iness** *n* [U]

war·like /ˈwɔːlaɪk‖ˈwɔːr-/ *adj* **1** liking or skilled in war: *a warlike nation* **2** ready for war or threatening war: *a warlike appearance*

war·lock /ˈwɔːlɒk‖ˈwɔːrlɑːk/ *n* (esp. in stories) a male WITCH (1)

war·lord /ˈwɔːlɔːd‖ˈwɔːrlɔːrd/ *n lit, sometimes derog* a high military leader

warm[1] /wɔːm‖wɔːrm/ *adj* **1** having or producing enough heat or pleasant heat: *warm milk | a warm bath* **2** having or giving a feeling of heat: *Are you warm enough? | The pillow was still warm. | It was warm work.* **3** able to keep in heat or keep out cold: *warm clothes* **4** showing or marked by strong feeling, esp. good feeling: *Please accept my warmest congratulations. | They gave her a* **warm welcome.** –compare HEATED **5** giving a pleasant feeling of cheerfulness or friendliness: *warm colours | a warm voice* **6** *AmE* slightly angry: *Warm words were exchanged.* (=angry things were said) **7** [F] (esp. in children's games) near to finding a hidden object, the answer, etc.: *You're getting warmer.* –compare COLD[1](4), HOT[1] (11) **8** (of a SCENT[1] (1b)) recently made; fresh: *The dogs were following a warm scent|trail.* –compare COOL[1]; see also WARMTH; see COLD (USAGE) – ~**ly** *adv*: *It's a cold day, so dress warmly. | They greeted each other warmly.* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

warm[2] *v* **1** [T (UP)] to make warm: *They warmed their hands|themselves by the open fire. | A glass of rum will warm you up. | a warming fire|drink* **2** [I] (of a thing) to become warm: *The soup is warming in the pot.* –compare COOL[2]

warm sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] **1** *AmE for* WARM **up** (1) **2** *derog, esp. AmE* to use (an idea, argument, etc.) again

warm to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** also **warm towards**– to begin to like: *The students warmed to the new teacher at once.* **2** to become interested in; be full of ENTHUSIASM for: *The more he spoke, the more he warmed to his subject.*

warm (sbdy./sthg.↔) **up** *phr v* **1** [T] *esp. BrE* ‖ also **warm over** *AmE* –to reheat (cooked food) for eating **2** [I;T] to (cause to) become ready for action or performance by exercise or operation in advance: *The runners are warming up before the race. | Let's warm up the car engine a bit before we start. | He warmed up the audience by telling a few jokes before the show began.* **3** [I;T] *infml* to (cause to) become more excited or exciting: *Let's try and warm up this party!*

warm[3] *n* [*the*+S] *esp. BrE* a warm place, state, or condition: *Come into the warm, out of the cold.*

warm-blood·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [*no comp.*] having a body temperature that remains fairly high whether the temperature of the surroundings is hot or cold –compare COLD-BLOODED – ~**ness** *n* [U]

war me·mo·ri·al /ˈ· ·ˌ···/ *n* something, such as a STATUE or PILLAR, put up in memory of those killed in a war. War

memorials are often found in small towns and villages as well as larger cities.

warm front /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* the advancing edge of a warm air mass; a technical world used when describing the weather —compare COLD FRONT

warm-heart·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* having good friendly feelings; kind: *a warm-hearted offer of help* —compare COLD-HEARTED —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

warming pan /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a long-handled round covered copper container for hot coals, formerly used to warm a bed

war·mon·ger /ˈwɔːˌmʌŋgəʳ‖ˈwɔːrˌmɑːŋ-, -ˌmʌŋ-/ *n derog* a person who urges war or who tries to get a war started —**~ing** *n* [U]

warmth /wɔːmθ‖wɔːrmθ/ *n* [U] the state or quality of being warm: *the warmth of the fire|of his feelings*

warm-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* a set of gentle exercises done to prepare oneself for an activity or sport: *There'll be a warm up of about five minutes before the game begins.* | *The cars do a warm-up lap before the race.*

warn /wɔːn‖wɔːrn/ *v* **1** [I;T **(of, against)**] to tell of something bad that may happen, or of how to prevent something bad: *The message warned of possible danger.* | *He warned me against going there at night.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *I warned her not to go near the dog, but she ignored me, and it bit her.* [+*obj*+(*that*)] *I warned them that there was a bull in the field.* | *A red warning light flashed on and off.* **2** [T] to give knowledge to (someone) of some future need or action: *If you warn the police when you go away on holiday, they will watch your house.*

warn sbdy. **off** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] to try to cause (someone) to go or stay away (from something) by warning or threats: *The farmer warned us off (his fields).*

War·ner /ˈwɔːnəʳ‖ˈwɔːr-/, **Jack** (1896–1981) an English actor best remembered for playing the part of a policeman, George Dixon in the long-running British television SERIES *Dixon of Dock Green* —see also DIXON OF DOCK GREEN

Warner, Glenn S. (Pop) (1871–1954) an American football trainer who invented several ways of placing players on the field to gain the most advantage

Warner Bros /ˈwɔːnə ˌbrʌðəz ‖ ˈwɔːrnər ˌbrʌðərz/ *n* an American film company

warn·ing /ˈwɔːnɪŋ‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U **(of)**] telling in advance: *The sirens sounded an air-raid warning.* | *They attacked without warning|without giving a warning.* [+*to-v*] *The terrorists gave the army a warning not to go near the building.* | *Before you can dismiss him, you must give him* **advance warning** *in writing.* **2** [C **(of**)] something that warns: *Let that be a warning to you.*

War of 1812 /ˌwɔːr əv ˌeɪtiːn ˈtwelv/ [*the*] a war between the US and Britain, fought from 1812 to 1815 mainly over trade problems. During the war, British soldiers burned the White House and other buildings in Washington, D.C.

War of In·de·pen·dence /ˌ· · ··ˈ··/ [*the*] *esp. BrE for* AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

war of nerves /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* an attempt to worry the enemy and destroy their courage by threats, PROPAGANDA, etc.

War of the Worlds /ˌ· · · ˈ·/, **The** a book by H G Wells, one of the first great works of SCIENCE FICTION. In 1938 a US radio broadcast of a play based on the book frightened many people, who thought that the events described on the radio were real.

War on Want /ˌ· · ˈ·/ a British organization (CHARITY) started in 1952 which collects money and goods and gives help to poor people in many countries of the world

warp[1] /wɔːp‖wɔːrp/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) turn or twist out of shape: *This wood warps easily in damp conditions.* | (fig.) *Her views of men had been warped by several bad experiences.* | (fig.) *If you really enjoy such unpleasant jokes you must have a* **warped mind**.

warp[2] *n* **1** [S] a twist out of a true level or straight line **2** [*the*+S] *tech* threads running along the length of cloth —compare WEFT **3** [C] *tech* a rope or strong wire used for pulling a net along behind a fishing boat

war paint /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] **1** paint that members of some tribes put on their bodies before going to war, esp. in former times **2** *humor for* MAKE-UP (1)

war·path /ˈwɔːpɑːθ‖ˈwɔːrpæθ/ *n* **on the warpath: a** (esp. formerly of Native Americans) preparing for battle **b** *infml* angry and looking for someone to fight or punish

war·rant[1] /ˈwɒrənt‖ˈwɔːr-, ˈwɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C] a written order signed by an official of the law, esp. allowing the police to take certain action: *You can't search my house without a warrant.* (=a SEARCH WARRANT) | *The magistrate issued a warrant for his arrest.* —see also DEATH WARRANT **2** [U] *fml* proper reason for action; JUSTIFICATION —see also UNWARRANTED

warrant[2] *v* [T] **1** to cause to appear right or reasonable; JUSTIFY (2): *This tiny crowd doesn't warrant such a large police presence.* [+*v-ing*] *Just because you like it, that doesn't warrant spending so much money on it.* **2** *fml* to promise (that something is so); GUARANTEE: [+*obj*+*adj*] *The grower warrants these plants (to be) free from disease.* [+(*that*)] *He warrants that they are free from disease.* **3** [(+*obj*)+(*that*)] *infml* to declare as if certain: *I'll warrant (you) we won't see him back here again.*

warrant of·fic·er /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

war·ran·ty /ˈwɒrənti‖ˈwɔːr-, ˈwɑːr-/ *n tech* a written GUARANTEE: *The manufacturers will have to repair the car without charge because it's still* **under warranty.**

war·ren /ˈwɒrən‖ˈwɔːr-, ˈwɑːr-/ *n* **1** a RABBIT WARREN **2** *usu. derog* a place in which too many people live, or in which one gets lost easily: *a warren of narrow twisting old streets*

Warren Re·port /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ [*the*] the report of an American committee, led by Earl Warren, which studied the events surrounding the murder of US President John F. Kennedy. The committee (the **Warren Commission**) decided that Kennedy's killer had acted alone and was not part of a CONSPIRACY.

war·ring /ˈwɔːrɪŋ/ *adj* [A] at war; fighting each other: *warring factions|families* | (fig.) *warring beliefs*

war·ri·or /ˈwɒriəʳ‖ˈwɔːr-, ˈwɑːr-/ *n fml or lit* a soldier or experienced fighting man, esp. in former times: *a noble warrior* | *a Zulu warrior*

War·saw /ˈwɔːsɔː‖ˈwɔːr-/ the capital city of Poland

Warsaw Ghet·to /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a group of around half a million Jews collected together in Warsaw by the Germans during the Second World War, most of whom died in CONCENTRATION CAMPS or in armed struggle

Warsaw Pact /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **Warsaw Trea·ty Or·gan·i·za·tion** /ˌ·· ˈ·· ···ˌ··/— [*the*] a defence agreement established in 1955 by Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, E Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union. It no longer exists now, since the end of COMMUNIST in much of E Europe.

war·ship /ˈwɔːˌʃɪp‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* a naval ship used for war, esp. one armed with guns

Wars of the Ros·es /ˌ· · · ˈ··/ *n* [*the* + P] the name given to the struggle (1455–85) between the noble family of Lancaster, represented by a red rose, and the noble family of York, represented by a white rose, to make their man king of England

wart /wɔːt‖wɔːrt/ *n* **1** a small hard lump on the skin, esp. of the face or hands **2 warts and all** *infml* not failing to mention the bad parts: *The documentary presented Elvis as a human being, warts and all.* | *a warts-and-all biography* —**~y** *adj*

wart·hog /ˈwɔːthɒg‖ˈwɔːrthɔːg, -hɑːg/ *n* an African wild pig with long front teeth that stick out of its mouth

war·time /ˈwɔːtaɪm‖ˈwɔːr-/ *n* [U] a time when a nation is at war: *rationing in wartime* | *wartime newsreels* | *wartime France* —opposite **peacetime**

War·wick /ˈwɒrɪk‖ˈwɔːr-/ a town in central England, where the local government for Warwickshire is based

War·wick·shire /ˈwɒrɪkʃəʳ‖ˈwɔːr-/ a COUNTY in W central England

war wid·ow /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a woman whose husband has been killed in war, who receives a small regular payment from the state (a **war widow's pension**)

war·y /ˈweəri/ *adj* [**(of**)] careful; looking out for danger: *wild animals wary of traps* | *a wary old politician who never says too much* —see also WARILY

was /wəz; *strong* wɒz‖wəz; *strong* wɑːz/ *1st and 3rd person sing. past tense of* BE: *I was here yesterday.* | *That was John.* —see NOT (USAGE)

wash[1] /wɒʃ‖wɔːʃ, wɑːʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to clean with liquid: *She*

washed her hands in hot water|with soap and water. | *This shirt needs washing.* | *Wash these marks off (the wall), will you?* –see also WASHING **2** [I] also **wash up** *AmE*– to clean oneself or a part of one's body, esp. one's face and hands, with liquid: *She washed and then went to bed.* | *You haven't washed behind your ears.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*] to be able to be cleaned with liquid without damage: *This fabric doesn't wash well.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*, esp. AWAY] to carry by the force of moving water: *farm animals and crops washed away by floods* **5** [I (**against, over**);T] *esp. lit* to flow against or over (something) continually: *The waves washed (against) the shore|washed over the deck.* **6** [I (**with**) *usu. in questions and negatives*] *infml* to be able to be believed: *His story just won't wash (with me).* **7 wash one's dirty linen (in public)** to make unpleasant subjects public which ought to be kept private **8 wash one's hands of** *infml* to refuse to have anything more to do with or accept responsibility for: *I've washed my hands of the whole affair.* **9 wash your mouth out!** (a phrase said to someone who has just sworn or said something rude)

▷ USAGE Compare **wash** and **clean.** If you **wash** something you remove dirt from it using a liquid, usually water. If you **clean** something you remove dirt from it by any method – using a cloth, a brush, chemicals, water, etc. –see also CLEAN (USAGE)◁

wash sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to clean (something large) with a lot of water: *She washed down the car|the walls|the yard.* **2** [(**with**)] to swallow (food or medicine) with the help of liquid: *We washed down our steak and chips with a glass of wine.*

wash sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to become free of an unwanted substance, such as dirt: *Wash that cloth out for me.* **2** to destroy or prevent by the action of water: *The cricket match was washed out by rain.* –see also WASHED-OUT, WASHOUT

wash out of sthg. *phr v* [T] *AmE infml* to fail or not be allowed to continue: *He washed out of college after a year.*

wash up *phr v* **1** [I] *esp. BrE* ‖ **do the dishes** *AmE*– to wash the dishes, plates, knives, forks, etc., after a meal –see also WASHING-UP **2** [I] *AmE for* WASH[1] (2) **3** [T] (**wash** sthg. ↔ **up**) (of waves) to bring in to the shore: *The sea washed up the body of the drowned sailor.* –see also WASHED-UP

wash[2] *n* **1** [S] an act of washing: *Go upstairs and have a wash.* | *Give the car a good wash.* **2** [C] a place where vehicles are washed: *a car wash* **3** [S;U] a movement of water caused by the passing of a boat –compare WAKE[2] **4** [(*the*) S] the flow, sound, or action of a mass of water: *the wash of the waves against the rocks* **5** [C;U] also **wash drawing**– (a) drawing made in water paint of one colour **6** *AmE for* WASHING **7** ‖ *AmE* also **dry wash**– a river bed that has no water most of the time **8 come out in the wash** *infml* **a** (of something shameful) to become known **b** to turn out all right in the end: *Don't worry; it'll all come out in the wash!* **9 in the wash** being washed: *Your blue shirt is in the wash.*

wash[3] *adj* [A] *AmE infml* washable: *wash cotton*

Wash [*the*] a wide BAY on the E coast of England between Norfolk and Lincolnshire

wash·a·ble /ˈwɒʃəbəl‖ˈwɔː-, ˈwɑː-/ *adj* that can be washed without damage: *Is this cushion cover washable?* –see picture at SYMBOL

wash-and-wear /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *adj* (of clothes) easily washed and dried, and not needing ironing

wash·ba·sin /ˈwɒʃˌbeɪsən‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ also **basin** *BrE* ‖ **sink, washbowl** /-ˌbəʊl/*AmE*– *n* a large fixed container for water for washing the hands and face, esp. in a bathroom –compare SINK[2] (1a)

wash·board /ˈwɒʃbɔːd‖ˈwɔːʃbɔːrd, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n* a board or piece of metal that is CORRUGATED (=has high and low places on the surface) and is used to rub clothes against while washing. Washboards are used as instruments in some kinds of American FOLK[2] music, such as SKIFFLE.

wash·cloth /ˈwɒʃklɒθ‖ˈwɔːʃklɔːθ, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n AmE for* FACECLOTH

wash·day /ˈwɒʃdeɪ‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ also **washing day**– *n* [C;U] the day when clothes are washed: *Monday is washday in our house.*

wash draw·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* WASH[2] (5)

washed-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** reduced in colour, as if from too much washing: *washed-out old curtains* **2** very tired: *She felt completely washed-out after working all night.* –see also WASH **out**

washed-up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* (esp. of a person) with no further possibilities of success: *Let me tell you, friend, you're (all) washed-up in this town!* –see also WASH **up**

wash·er /ˈwɒʃəʳ‖ˈwɔː-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **1** a ring of metal, plastic, rubber, etc., put over a BOLT[1] (1) or a screw to give a softer or larger pressing surface, or put between two pipes to make a better joint –see picture at BOLT **2** a person or machine that washes –see also DISHWASHER and see picture at KITCHEN **3** *AmE for* WASHING MACHINE

washer-dry·er, -drier /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a machine which is both a washing machine and a TUMBLE-DRYER

wash·er·wom·an /ˈwɒʃəˌwʊmən‖ˈwɔːʃər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **-women** /ˌwɪmɪn/ (in former times) a woman whose job was to wash other people's clothes, often in her own home

wash·ing /ˈwɒʃɪŋ ‖ ˈwɔː-, ˈwɑː-/ ‖ also **wash** *AmE*– *n* [U] **1** the work of washing cloth or clothes: *I must get the washing done tonight.* –see picture at SYMBOL **2** cloth or clothes that need washing or have just been washed: *a pile of dirty washing* | *Hang the washing out to dry.*

washing day /ˈ·· ·/ *n* WASHDAY

washing line /ˈ·· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **clothesline** *AmE*– *n* a piece of string stretched between two trees or poles in a garden on which wet clothes are hung to dry

washing ma·chine /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ ‖ also **washer** *AmE*– *n* a machine for washing clothes: *He loaded up the washing machine.* –see picture at KITCHEN

washing pow·der /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **clothes detergent, laundry detergent** *AmE*– *n* [U] a powdered soap which is used for washing clothes

Washington[1] see WASHINGTON, DC and WASHINGTON STATE

Washington[2] /ˈwɒʃɪŋtən‖ˈwɔː-, ˈwɑː-/ **, Book·er** /ˈbʊkəʳ/ **T.** (1856–1915) an American teacher and ADMINISTRATOR who began the Tuskegee Institute, one of the first American colleges for black people. He also wrote an AUTOBIOGRAPHY called *Up from Slavery*.

George Washington



Washington[3]**, George** (1732–99) the first president of the US

►CULTURAL NOTE Most Americans know historical facts about Washington, such as that he led the fight against the British during the American Revolutionary War, suffered a very cold winter with his men at Valley Forge, and was the first president. Most Americans also know that when Washington was a boy, he is supposed to have chopped down a CHERRY tree. The story says that when he was asked about the tree, Washington replied, "I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my little ax." Americans still think of Washington as an honest and honourable man. His home in Virginia, Mount Vernon, where he and his wife Martha lived, is a popular place for tourists to visit. A picture of Washington is on every one dollar BILL. He is often called "the father of his country". Washington's Birthday on February 22nd is celebrated as a public holiday on President's Day.◄

Washington, DC /ˌwɒʃɪŋtən diː ˈsiː ‖ ˌwɔː-, ˌwɑː-/ also **Washington, the District of Columbia, the District, DC** **1** the US capital city, on the EAST COAST. Washington's many government buildings include the WHITE HOUSE and the CAPITOL. It has no industry. **DC** stands for **District of Columbia**, meaning that Washington is a special DISTRICT not contained in any of the 50 states – compare WASHINGTON STATE and see colour map on pages 1374–5 **2** the American president and his advisers in the

White House: *Washington may slow the rapid withdrawal from the Kurdish "safe haven"…*

Washington Mon·u·ment /ˌ··· ˈ···/ [*the*] a tall stone structure in the park area near the White House and Capitol Building in Washington, DC, which honours President George Washington

The Washington Monument



Washington Post /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] a serious American newspaper printed in Washington, DC —see extra information on page 896

Washington State /ˌ··· ˈ·/ also **Washington**— *written abbrev.* **WA** a state in the northwest US, by the Pacific Ocean. Its capital is Olympia, and its largest cities are Seattle and Tacoma. Washington (State) is known for its forests and its rainy, MILD[1] (2) weather —compare WASHINGTON, DC and see colour map on pages 1374–5

washing-up /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* **1** the washing of dishes, plates, etc., after a meal: *I'll do the washing-up.* **2** the dishes, plates, etc., that are waiting to be washed —see also WASH **up**

washing-up bowl /ˌ·· ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a plastic bowl in a sink in which the washing-up is done

washing-up liq·uid /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **dishwashing liquid** *AmE*— *n* [U] a soap in liquid form put into hot water and used to wash dishes, knives, forks, spoons, etc.

wash·load /ˈwɒʃləʊd‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n* the amount of clothing one can put in a washing machine considered together: *I did one washload in the morning and another in the afternoon*

wash·out /ˈwɒʃ-aʊt‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n infml* a failure: *That plan of yours was a complete washout.* —see also WASH **out**

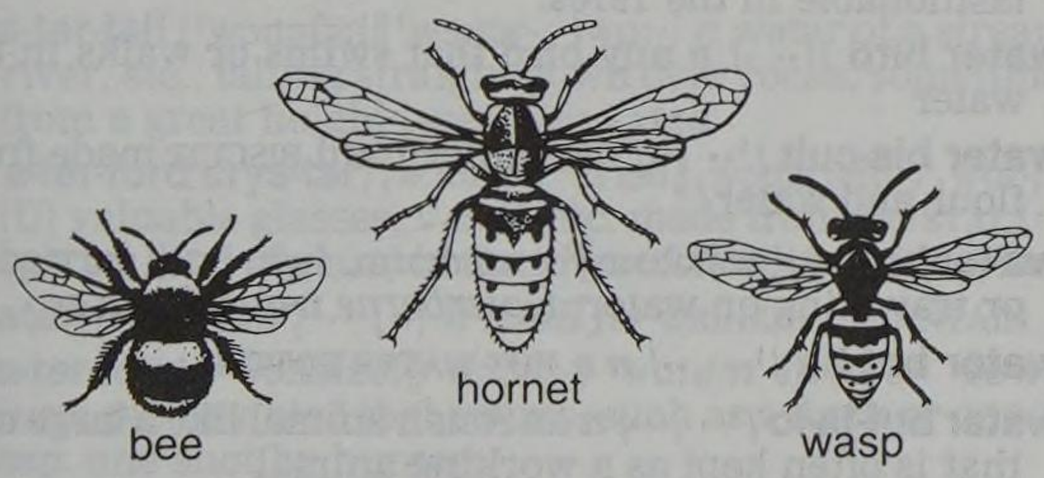
wash·rag /ˈwɒʃræg‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n AmE* FACECLOTH

wash·room /ˈwɒʃrʊm, -ruːm‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n AmE euph for* TOILET (2) —see TOILET (USAGE)

wash·stand /ˈwɒʃstænd‖ˈwɔːʃ-, ˈwɑːʃ-/ *n* a table in a bedroom, holding things needed for washing the face and hands, esp. in former times

was·n't /ˈwɒzənt‖ˈwɑː-/ *short for* was not: *It wasn't my fault!*

wasp



wasp /wɒsp‖wɑːsp, wɔːsp/ *n* a fierce stinging yellow and black insect similar to the bee —see also HORNET

WASP, Wasp /wɒsp‖wɑːsp, wɔːsp/ *n esp. AmE* White Anglo-Saxon Protestant; an American whose family was originally from northern Europe, esp. considered as a member of the class which has controlling influence or power in society —**Waspish** also **Waspy** *adj*

wasp·ish /ˈwɒspɪʃ‖ˈwɑː-, ˈwɔː-/ *adj* sharply bad-tempered and cruel: *a nasty waspish remark* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

wast /wəst; *strong* wɒst‖wəst; *strong* wɑːst/ *v* **thou wast** *old use or poet* (when talking to one person) you were

wast·age /ˈweɪstɪdʒ/ *n* [S;U] **1** loss or destruction of something, esp. wasteful loss of something valuable **2** a reduction in numbers because of leaving, dying, etc.: *We expect to lose over 50 people from our work force every year by* **natural wastage.**

waste[1] /weɪst/ *n* **1** [S;U (**of**)] loss, wrong use, or lack of full use: *It's a waste of John's talents to use him for such an easy job.* | *Don't let all this good food* **go to waste!** (=be wasted) | *It's* **a waste of time** (=useless) *trying to talk to her when she's in this mood.* | *I think betting is a complete waste of money.* **2** [U] used, damaged, or unwanted matter: *A lot of poisonous waste from the chemical works goes into the river.* | *Bodily waste is excreted in the form of faeces and urine.* —compare REFUSE[2]; see also NUCLEAR WASTE, WASTE DISPOSAL **3** [C] also **wastes** *pl.*— *esp. lit* an unused or useless stretch of land; a wide empty lonely stretch of water or land: *No crops will grow on these stony wastes.* | *the icy wastes of Antarctica* —see also WASTELAND

waste[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**on**)] to use wrongly, not use, or use too much of: *Don't waste your money on silly things; save it!* | *Don't waste electricity; turn off the lights when you go out.* **2** *fml* (esp. of a disease) to cause (the body) to lose flesh, muscle, strength, etc., gradually: *the poor wasted bodies of the concentration camp victims* | *a wasting disease such as tuberculosis* —see also WASTE **away** **3 waste one's breath** *infml* to have no effect with what one says: *Don't waste your breath trying to persuade them: they'll never listen.* **4 waste not, want not** *saying* careful use of things one has, while one has them, will mean that one will never be hungry or in need (usu. said when the speaker is about to take or use something that another person has left behind or thrown away)

waste away *phr v* [I] (esp. of a person or a part of the body) to gradually become thinner and weaker —see also WASTE[2] (2)

waste[3] *adj* [A] **1** got rid of as worthless, damaged, or of no use: *waste material* **2** used for holding or carrying away what is worthless or no longer wanted: *waste pipes* **3** (esp. of an area of land) empty; ruined or destroyed —see also WASTE[1] (3), **lay waste** (LAY[2])

waste·bas·ket /ˈweɪstˌbɑːskɨt‖-ˌbæ-/ a WASTEPAPER BASKET

wast·ed /ˈweɪstɨd/ *adj infml* very drunk

waste dis·pos·al /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* **1** also **waste disposal unit** *BrE* ‖ **garbage disposal, garburetor** *tdmk AmE*— a machine connected to the waste pipe of a kitchen SINK[2](1) which cuts solid waste into small pieces before it is carried away by the flow of water, thus avoiding blocking the pipes **2** [U] *esp. BrE* ‖ **disposal** *AmE*— the process of destroying or getting rid of used, damaged, or unwanted matter: *a waste disposal plant*

waste·ful /ˈweɪstfəl/ *adj* tending to waste things: *It's wasteful to throw these away; we might be able to use them one day.* | *wasteful habits* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

waste·land /ˈweɪstlænd, -lənd/ *n* [C;U] (an area of) empty, unproductive, usu. ugly land: (fig.) *the industrial wastelands of northern England* (=with empty ruined old factories)

Waste Land /ˈ· ˌ·/, **The** a long poem by T S Eliot which has had a great influence on modern poetry since it appeared in 1922

waste pa·per /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *n* [U] paper got rid of because used, not necessary, or not fit for use

waste·pa·per bas·ket /ˌweɪstˈpeɪpə ˌbɑːskɨt, ˈweɪstˌpeɪpə- ˈweɪstˌpeɪpərˌbæ-/ ‖ also **waste·bas·ket** /ˈweɪstˌbɑːskɨt ‖ -ˌbæ-/ *esp. AmE*— *n* a small container, usu. indoors, into which one throws away unwanted paper, etc. —compare LITTER BIN

waste prod·uct /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* something useless produced by the same action that produces something useful: *Urine is one of the body's waste products.*

wast·er /ˈweɪstəʳ/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) someone or something that uses things wastefully, or causes or permits waste: *Washing clothes by hand is a real time-waster; you should get a washing machine.* **2** *derog* someone who uses their time and money foolishly, too quickly, etc., without thought for the future

was·trel /ˈweɪstrəl/ *n lit for* WASTER (2)

watch[1] /wɒtʃ‖wɑːtʃ, wɔːtʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to look (at) attentively: *Some of them were playing cards, and others were watching.* (=looking at the people playing cards) | *I missed what was happening because I wasn't watching very closely.* | *She watched the train until it disappeared round the bend.* | *Do you watch a lot of television?* | *Watch me, and then try to copy what I do.* [+*wh*-] *Watch how I do it.* [+*obj* +*to-v*/*v-ing*] *We watched the sun set*/*setting behind the trees.* [+*to-v*] *She watched to see what he would do.* **2** [T] to be careful with or pay attention to: *You'd better watch Smith; I think he's a thief.* | *He watches his weight more as he grows older.* [+(*that*)] *Watch the milk doesn't boil*

over! [+*wh-*] *Watch how you use that knife; it's sharp!* **3 Watch it!** *infml* Be careful! **4 watch oneself** *AmE infml* **a** to be careful **b** to control one's habits: *I have to watch myself when it comes to chocolate* (=I try not to eat too much). **5 watch one's step** *infml* to act with great care **6 watch the clock** *infml* to be waiting for one's working day to end instead of thinking about one's work – see SEE (USAGE) – **~er** *n*

watch for *phr v* [T] to look for; expect and wait for: *She watched for her chance to speak.*

watch out *phr v* [I *usu. imperative*] *infml* to take care: *Watch out! There's a car coming!*

watch out for sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** to keep on looking for: *Watch out for a tall man in a black hat.* **2** to be careful of: *Watch out for the dog/his temper!*

watch over sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to guard and protect; take care of

watch[2] *n* **1** [C] a small clock to be worn, esp. on the wrist, or carried: *He wound up his watch.* –see CLOCK (USAGE) **2** [S;U] the act of watching carefully: *The sentry was keeping watch.* | *The police are* **keeping (a) close/careful watch on** *the activities of those men.* | *Be* **on the watch for** *thieves in this crowd.* **3** [S] a person or people ordered to watch a place or a person: *In spite of the watch set on the house, the thief escaped.* **4** [C+*sing./pl. v*;U] (sailors who have to be on duty during) a period of two or four hours at sea: *You'll take the first watch tonight.* | *Who's on watch now?* **5** [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] also **night watch**– a form of police force doing duty in towns at night in former times: *Call out the watch!* **6** [C *usu. pl.*] *esp. poet* a period (of the night) spent awake: *during the still watches of the night*

watchband /ˈwɒtʃbænd‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n AmE for* WATCHSTRAP

watch chain /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a chain fastened at one end to a watch and at the other to one's clothing

watch·dog /ˈwɒtʃdɒg‖ˈwɑːtʃdɔːg, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n* **1** a fierce dog kept to guard property **2** a person or organization that tries to guard against stealing, wasteful use of public money, undesirable practices, etc.: *a government watchdog on television advertising standards* | *the telecommunications watchdog OFTEL*

watch·ful /ˈwɒtʃfəl‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *adj* [(**for**)] careful to notice things; VIGILANT: *She was watchful for any signs of activity in the empty house.* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

watch·mak·er /ˈwɒtʃˌmeɪkəʳ‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n* a person who makes or repairs watches or clocks

watch·man /ˈwɒtʃmən‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a guard, esp. of a building or an area with buildings on it –see also NIGHT WATCHMAN

watch night ser·vice /ˈ· · ˌ··/ *n* a church service which is held in Britain on 31st December to celebrate the New Year

watch·out /ˈwɒtʃaʊt‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n AmE* the act of watching for something; LOOKOUT (1): *Keep a watchout for errors like this one.*

watch·strap /ˈwɒtʃstræp‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *BrE*‖also **watchband** *AmE*– *n* a band of leather, cloth, metal, etc., by which a wristwatch is kept fastened to the wrist

watch·tow·er /ˈwɒtʃˌtaʊəʳ‖ˈwɑːtʃ-, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n* a high tower from the top of which people can see what is coming a long way off, used esp. in former times

Watchtower, The a religious magazine of the Jehovah's Witnesses, which they often try to persuade people to read as they go from door to door

watch·word /ˈwɒtʃwɜːd‖ˈwɑːtʃwɜːrd, ˈwɔːtʃ-/ *n* a word or phrase that expresses a principle or guide to action of a person or group; SLOGAN: *Let constant vigilance be your watchword.*

wa·ter[1] /ˈwɔːtəʳ‖ˈwɔː-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the most common liquid, without colour, taste, or smell, which falls from the sky as rain, forms rivers, lakes, and seas, and is drunk by people and animals: *The prisoner was given only bread and water.* | *The hotel has hot and cold running water* (=from TAPS) *in each room.* | *a glass of water* | *This reservoir supplies the whole city with water.* | *sea water* | *bathwater* (=water in a bath) **2** a mass or area of water, such as a lake, ocean, or river: *Help! He's fallen in the water.* | *She dived into the water and swam towards him.* | *After the flood most of the town was under water.* | *The goods came by water* (=by boat), *not by air.* | *a wide stretch of open water*

►CULTURAL NOTE In the Bible, there is a story in which Jesus performed a MIRACLE by changing water into wine. There is also a story in the Bible in which Jesus walked on water. –see colour picture on page 424◄

3 the level of the sea (or of some rivers), at a particular time; TIDE: *The boat left* **at high/low water. 4 above water** *infml* out of serious difficulty, esp. with regard to money: *The company has not had a very successful year but has managed to* **keep its head above water.** (=stay out of debt) **5 like water off a duck's back** *infml* (esp. of advice, warnings, or unpleasant experiences) having no effect on someone; not influencing someone's behaviour: *I must have told him a hundred times, and he always forgets – it's like water off a duck's back.* **6 water on the brain/knee/etc.,** liquid on the brain, knee, etc., as the result of disease **7 water under the bridge** past events which one can no longer change **8 water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge –see also WATERS, HEAVY WATER, HOT WATER, SODA WATER, TOILET WATER, TONIC WATER, **in deep water** (DEEP[1]), **of the first water** (FIRST[1]), **hold water** (HOLD[1]), **pour cold water on** (POUR)

water[2] *v* **1** [T] to pour water on (an area of land or a plant): *It's very dry; we must water the garden/the roses.* **2** [I] (esp. of the eyes or mouth) to form or let out water or watery liquid, esp. tears or SALIVA: *My eyes watered when I cut up the onions.* | *The delicious cooking smells made my mouth water.* –see also MOUTH-WATERING **3** [T] to supply (esp. an animal) with water to drink: *Have the horses been fed and watered?* **4** [T *often pass.*] *tech* (esp. of a river) to flow through (an area) and provide it with water: *Colombia is watered by the Magdalena, Atrato, San Juan, and other rivers.*

water sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] *often derog* **1** to weaken (a liquid) by adding water; DILUTE: *Waiter, this wine has been watered down!* **2** to make (a statement, report, etc.) weaker or less forceful, esp. by removing anything that might cause offence or opposition: *I've watered down the report's conclusions so as not to alarm the directors.* –see also WATERED-DOWN

Water Ba·bies /ˈ·· ˌ··/, **The** a children's story by Charles Kingsley, which tells how a young boy called Tom falls into a river, becomes a water-baby, and learns all about good and evil from his water friends and enemies

wa·ter·bed /ˈwɔːtəbed‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* a bed made out of RUBBER and filled with water. Waterbeds were esp. fashionable in the 1970s.

water bird /ˈ·· ·/ *n* any bird that swims or walks in the water

water bis·cuit /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a rather hard BISCUIT made from flour and water

wa·ter·borne /ˈwɔːtəbɔːn‖ˈwɔːtərbɔːrn, ˈwɑː-/ *adj* carried by or travelling on water: *waterborne trade/diseases*

water bot·tle /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a HOT-WATER BOTTLE

water buf·fa·lo /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* an Asian animal like a large cow that is often kept as a working animal

water butt /ˈ·· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **rain barrel** *AmE*– *n* a barrel for collecting rainwater

water can·non /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* **-non** *or* **-nons** an apparatus for forcing a stream of water under very high pressure against objects and esp. people: *Police drove off the demonstrators with water cannon.*

water chestnut /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a white, nut-like fruit from a plant grown in water, often used in Chinese cooking

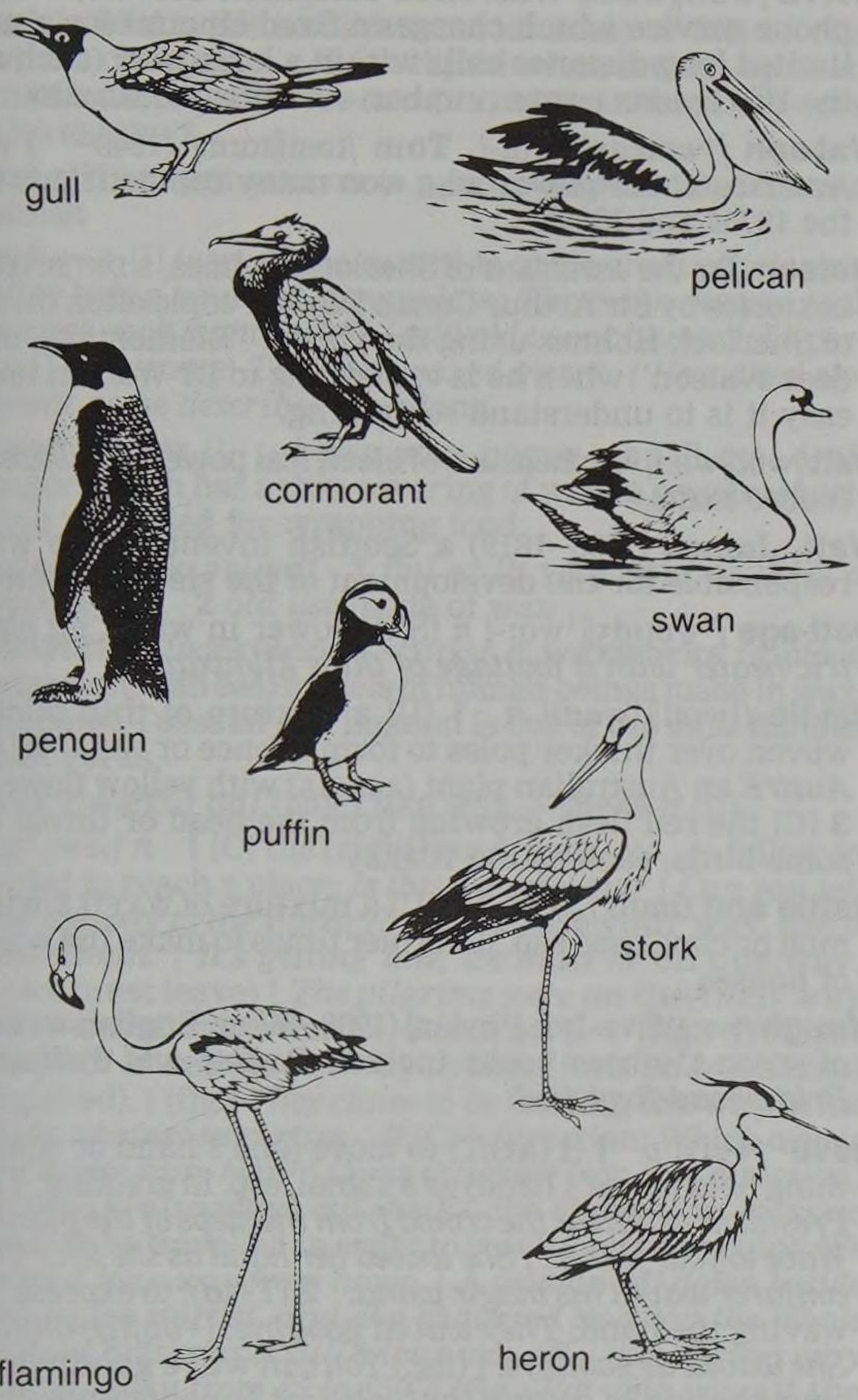
water clos·et /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* see WC

wa·ter·col·our *BrE* ‖ **watercolor** *AmE* /ˈwɔːtəˌkʌləʳ‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*;U] colours that are mixed with water, not oil, and used for painting pictures – compare OILS **2** [U] the art of painting such pictures **3** [C] a picture painted in this way –compare OIL PAINTING (2)

water cool·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* an apparatus which cools drinking water from a large bottle, often found in offices

wa·ter·course /ˈwɔːtəkɔːs‖ˈwɔːtərkɔːrs, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **1** a natural or artificial passage through which water flows **2** a stream of water, such as a river or underground stream

water birds



wa·ter·cress /ˈwɔːtəkres‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [U] a strong-tasting plant with dark green leaves grown in water that is used as food, esp. in SALADS or soups

watered-down /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj usu. derog* reduced in force; weakened: *a watered-down version of the original* —see also WATER **down**

watered silk /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a special type of silk that has the appearance of being covered with shiny waves, like the surface of water

wa·ter·fall /ˈwɔːtəfɔːl‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* water of a stream, river, etc., falling straight down over rocks, sometimes from a great height —see also FALLS

Wa·ter·ford crys·tal /ˌwɔːtəfəd ˈkrɪstl‖ˌwɔːtərfərd-, ˌwɑː-/ *n* [U] valuable glasses, VASES, etc. made from CRYSTAL (=a special kind of glass) in the town of Waterford in Ireland

water foun·tain /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE for* DRINKING FOUNTAIN

wa·ter·fowl /ˈwɔːtəfaʊl‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **-fowl** *or* **-fowls** [*usu. pl.*] any bird that swims, such as a duck or GOOSE, esp. one shot by hunters

wa·ter·front /ˈwɔːtəfrʌnt‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] an area of land or a part of a town near a stretch of water, esp. when used as a port

Wa·ter·gate /ˈwɔːtəgeɪt‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ also **the Watergate Af·fair** /· ˈ··· ·ˌ·/— the political SCANDAL in the early 1970s that led to US President Richard Nixon leaving office in 1974 to avoid being IMPEACHed (=charged with serious misbehaviour in office) by Congress. It was discovered that Nixon had known of and approved an attempt to obtain information about the Democratic CAMPAIGN for president by breaking into their offices in the Watergate Hotel building in Washington. Nixon also tried to prevent the Senate from receiving important information during their INVESTIGATION of the matter. The Senate investigation was shown on television, so the whole nation heard the TESTIMONY (=words said in a court by a witness) of politicians who worked for Nixon and said that he was involved and thus misused his power as president. The Senate also asked to hear the TAPES Nixon had made of conversations held in his office, but when they received them, parts of conversations seemed to have been deliberately removed from the tapes. Many details concerning the Watergate Affair were discovered by two *Washington Post* reporters, **Carl Bernstein** and **Bob Woodward**, who said that an important person in the government gave them information, and they called him **Deep Throat** to protect him. Watergate is often used as an example of the misuse of power.

wa·ter·hole /ˈwɔːtəhəʊl‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* a small area of water in dry country, where wild animals go to drink

water ice /ˈ·· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **sorbet** *AmE— n* [C;U] a frozen sweet made of fruit juice or water with colour and taste added

watering can /ˈ··· ·/ ‖ also **watering pot** *AmE— n* a container from which water can be poured through a long SPOUT onto garden plants —see picture at GARDEN

watering hole /ˈ··· ·/ *n* **1** a waterhole **2** *humor* a place where people go regularly to drink alcohol

watering place /ˈ··· ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* a SPA **2** a waterhole

water jump /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a stretch of water across which runners or horses must jump as part of a race or competition, esp. in a STEEPLECHASE or SHOW JUMPING

water lev·el /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* the height to which a mass of water has risen or sunk

water lil·y /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a plant which grows in water, with large white, yellow, or pink flowers and flat leaves, often seen floating on the surface of a pool in gardens

wa·ter·line /ˈwɔːtəlaɪn‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [*the*+S] *tech* the position which the water reaches along the side of a ship

wa·ter·logged /ˈwɔːtəlɒgd‖ˈwɔːtərlɔːgd, ˈwɑː-, -lɑːgd/ *adj* so full of water as to be heavy, unusable, or unable to float: *The football pitch was waterlogged so the match had to be cancelled.*

Wa·ter·loo[1] /ˌwɔːtəˈluː◂‖ˌwɔːtər-, ˌwɑː-/ **1** a battle fought in 1815 near Brussels, Belgium in which Wellington led the British and Prussians and defeated Napoleon and the French **2** *n* a severe (and deserved) defeat after a time of unusual success: *The British champion finally* **met his Waterloo** (=was beaten) *when he boxed for the world title.* **3** one of the mainline railway stations in London just S of the Thames —see colour map on page 817

water main /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large underground pipe carrying a public supply of water

wa·ter·mark /ˈwɔːtəmɑːk‖ˈwɔːtərmɑːrk, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **1** a mark made on paper by the maker, seen only when it is held up to the light: *The watermark on/in the banknote is to prevent forgery.* **2** a mark showing the stated level reached by a river or the sea: *This is the river's* **high/low watermark**. | (fig.) *The ancient culture had reached its high watermark.* (=period of greatest success)

water mead·ow /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a field, usu. near a river, which is often flooded

wa·ter·mel·on /ˈwɔːtəˌmelən‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [C;U] a large round fruit with green skin, juicy red flesh, and black seeds

wa·ter·mill /ˈwɔːtəˌmɪl‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* a MILL that is driven by moving water, esp. in a river

water moc·ca·sin /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a poisonous N American snake which lives in water

water pipe /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a HOOKAH

water pis·tol /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **squirt gun**— *n* a toy gun which shoots water

water po·lo /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a game played by two teams of swimmers with a ball

wa·ter·pow·er /ˈwɔːtəˌpaʊəʳ‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [U] the power from moving water which can be used to produce electricity or to work machines; HYDROELECTRIC power

wa·ter·proof[1] /ˈwɔːtəpruːf‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *adj* not allowing water, esp. rain, to go through —**waterproof** *n BrE*: *waterproofs for hillwalking* (=waterproof coats)

waterproof[2] *v* [T] to make waterproof, e.g. by putting rubber onto a material

water rat /ˈ·· ·/ also **water vole**— *n* a small animal which lives in holes near a river and can swim

water rate /ˈ·· ·/ *n* (in Britain) the charge made to each house-owner by the organization that supplies the public with water

water rights /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [P] the legal right to make use of water from a particular river, stream, lake, etc.

►CULTURAL NOTE In the 1800s and early 1900s many landowners in the US argued over water rights. Today states argue over water rights, esp. over how much water each state can legally use. This question is esp. important in the south west US.◄

wa·ters /ˈwɔːtəz‖ˈwɔːtərz, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [P] **1** sea near or belonging to the stated country: *fishing in Icelandic waters* **2** the water of the stated river, lake, etc.: *This is where the waters of the Amazon flow out into the sea.* **3** water containing minerals supposed to be good for the health, which comes up out of the ground from a spring and is drunk at a particular place: *He's* **taking** (=drinking) **the waters** *at Bath.* **4 still waters run deep** *saying* a person who is quiet and says little often hides deep feelings or a lot of knowledge of a subject

Wa·ters, Muddy (1915–83) an American BLUES singer, songwriter, and GUITAR player, who greatly influenced many other singers of popular music

wa·ter·shed /ˈwɔːtəʃed‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* **1** the high land separating two river systems, from which each has its origin in many little streams **2** a time or event that marks a very important change, e.g. in a person's life or in a country's history: *Napoleon's retreat from Moscow was a watershed in his career|in European history.*

wa·ter·side /ˈwɔːtəsaɪd‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [*the*+S] the edge of a river, lake, etc.: *waterside restaurants*

water ski·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a sport in which one travels over water on SKIS, pulled by a boat —**water ski** *v* [I] —**-er** *n*

water sof·ten·er /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a machine or chemical used for taking certain unwanted minerals, esp. chalk, out of water

water-sol·u·ble /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *adj* that can be dissolved (DISSOLVE) in water

wa·ter·spout /ˈwɔːtəspaʊt‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* a wind condition (TORNADO) over the sea which carries water in a tall pipe-shaped turning mass —see STORM (USAGE)

water sup·ply /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* the flow of water provided for a building or area, and the system of lakes, pipes, etc., that provides it: *They turned off the water supply before installing the new heating system.*

water ta·ble /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* the level at and below which water can be found in the ground

wa·ter·tight /ˈwɔːtətaɪt‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *adj* **1** through which no water can pass: *a watertight box* **2** produced with great care, so that there is no possibility of doubt, mistakes, or unintended results: *a watertight argument|plan|contract*

water tow·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a large container raised up in the air into which water is pumped, producing a steady pressure in order to supply water to buildings nearby

water va·pour /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] water in the form of gas in the air

water vole /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a WATER RAT

wa·ter·way /ˈwɔːtəweɪ‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* a stretch of water, e.g. part of a river, which ships or boats can move on: *Canals and rivers form the* **inland waterways** *of a country.*

wa·ter·wheel /ˈwɔːtəwiːl‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* a wheel which is turned by moving water, esp. to give power to machines

wa·ter·wings /ˈwɔːtəˌwɪŋz‖ˈwɔːtər-, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [P] a joined pair of winglike plastic or rubber bags filled with air, worn under the arms to support a swimmer, esp. a child learning to swim

wa·ter·works /ˈwɔːtəwɜːks‖ˈwɔːtərwɜːrks, ˈwɑː-/ *n* [P] **1** buildings, pipes, and supplies of water forming a public water system **2** *euph or humor, esp. BrE* the body's system and organs for removing URINE from the body: *I've been having a bit of trouble with the waterworks, doctor.* **3** *infml derog* crying: *Whenever she doesn't get what she wants, she* **turns on the waterworks.** (=starts to cry)

wa·ter·y /ˈwɔːtəri‖ˈwɔː-, ˈwɑː-/ *adj* **1** *derog* containing too much water: *watery soup|coffee|potatoes* **2** very pale in colour: *a watery sun* **3** [A] *esp. lit* under the water: *The sailors came to* **a watery grave.** (=were drowned)

Wat·ford /ˈwɒtfəd ‖ ˈwɑːtfərd/ a small town on the N edge of London —see also NORTH OF WATFORD

Wat·ling Street /ˈwɒtlɪŋ ˌstriːt‖ˈwɑː-/ a long Roman road stretching from Dover in the E to the river Severn in the W of England

Wat·ney's /ˈwɒtniz‖ˈwɑː-/ *n tdmk* a make of beer

WATS /wɒts‖wɑːts/ Wide Area Telephone Service; a telephone service which charges a fixed amount for **a** unlimited long-distance calls within a large area (such as the US) **b** a TOLL-FREE number —see also 800 NUMBER

Wat·son /ˈwɒtsən‖ˈwɑː-/, **Tom** /tɒm‖tɑːm/ (1949–) an American GOLF player who won many competitions in the 1970s and 1980s

Watson, Dr the ASSISTANT of Sherlock Holmes, a DETECTIVE in stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. People often think of Sherlock Holmes using the phrase "Elementary, my dear Watson" when he is explaining to Dr Watson how easy it is to understand something.

watt /wɒt‖wɑːt/ *n* a measure of electrical power: *A kilowatt is 1000 watts.*

Watt, James (1736–1819) a Scottish inventor who was responsible for the development of the steam engine

watt·age /ˈwɒtɪdʒ‖ˈwɑː-/ *n* [S;U] power in watts: *an electric heater with a wattage of three kilowatts*

wat·tle /ˈwɒtl‖ˈwɑːtl/ *n* **1** [U] a mixture of thin sticks woven over thicker poles to form a fence or wall **2** [U] *AustrE* an Australian plant (ACACIA) with yellow flowers **3** [C] the red flesh growing from the head or throat of some birds, such as the TURKEY

wattle and daub /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] a mixture of WATTLE with mud or clay, used esp. in former times to make the walls of houses

Waugh /wɔː/, **Eve·lyn** /ˈiːvl̩ən/ (1903–66) an English writer of NOVELS, whose books include *Decline and Fall* and *Brideshead Revisited*

wave[1] /weɪv/ *v* **1** [I (**at**);T] to move (one's hand or something held in one's hand) as a signal, esp. in greeting: *The President waved at the crowd from the steps of the plane.| Wave to your father.* | *She waved her hand as she left.| The conjurer waved his magic wand.* **2** [T (**to**)] to express by waving the hand: *They waved goodbye.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *She waved us goodbye.* | (fig.) *You can* **wave goodbye to** *your chances of getting that job.* (=it is now impossible that you will get it) **3** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to direct (a person) to move with a wave of the hand: *The policeman waved the traffic on.* | *She waved him away impatiently and went on with her work.* **4** [I] to move in the air, backwards and forwards, or up and down, without moving from one place: *The flag waved in the breeze.* **5** [I;T] to (cause to) lie or grow in regular curves: *Her hair waves naturally.*

wave[2] *n* **1** a raised moving part on the surface of a large body of water, esp. the sea, which is one of a number at even distances from each other: *The waves crashed|pounded against the rocks.* | *The little boat vanished beneath the waves.* (=sank) **2** a movement of the hand in waving: *With a wave of the hand he was gone.| Give your father a wave.* **3** [(**of**)] a particular feeling or pattern of behaviour or activity that suddenly begins to happen in an uncontrollable way, and is often passed on from person to person: *I felt a wave of nausea.| A wave of panic|indignation swept through the crowd.| The group was responsible for a wave of terrorist bombings.* | *a* **crime wave** —see also HEAT WAVE **4** a form in which some types of ENERGY (3), such as light and sound, move: *radio waves* —see also LONG WAVE, MEDIUM WAVE, SHORT WAVE **5** an evenly curved part of the hair: *a natural|permanent wave* —compare CURL[1] (1); see also MEXICAN WAVE

wave sthg. **aside** *phr v* [T] to refuse to consider or treat as unimportant (esp. ideas, suggestions, etc.): *She waved his protests aside.*

Wave *n AmE infml* a woman serving in the US navy

wave band /ˈ· ·/ *n* a set of sound waves of similar lengths, used esp. for broadcasting radio programmes

wave·length /ˈweɪvleŋθ/ *n* **1** the distance between one WAVE[2] (4) and another **2** a radio signal sent out on radio waves that are a particular distance apart **3 (not) on the same wavelength** (dis)agreeing completely about all or the stated matters: *He and I are on the same wavelength concerning this development plan.* | *My mother-in-law and I are not on the same wavelength.*

wa·ver /ˈweɪvəʳ/ *v* [I] to be uncertain or unsteady in movement or decision: *The flame wavered and then went out.| He wavered between accepting and refusing.* | *She never wavered in her loyalty to us.* —**~er** *n* —**~ingly** *adv*

wav·y /ˈweɪvi/ *adj* in the shape of waves; having regular curves: *wavy lines* —**-iness** *n* [U]

wax[1] /wæks/ *n* [U] a solid material made of fats or oils which changes to a thick liquid when melted by heat: *candle wax* | *wax in the ears* (=a natural substance) —see also BEESWAX

wax[2] *v* [T] to put wax on (e.g. a wooden floor), esp. as a polish

wax[3] *v* **1** [I] (esp. of the moon) to grow gradually larger after being small or incomplete: *The moon* **waxes and wanes** *each month.* **2** [L+*adj*] *old use or humor* (of a person) to become: *The king waxed merry.* | *He waxed eloquent as he described his plans.*

waxed pa·per /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **wax paper**– *n* [U] *esp. AmE* paper which has a thin covering of wax to prevent it getting wet, used for wrapping food

wax·en /ˈwæksən/ *adj* **1** *fml or lit* very pale, as if ill: *a waxen face* **2** *old use* made of wax

wax·works /ˈwækswɜːks‖-wɜːrks/ *n* **waxworks** (a place where one can see) models of human beings made in wax. Madame Tussaud's in London is one of the most famous waxworks.

wax·y /ˈwæksi/ *adj* (pale) like wax —**-iness** *n* [U]

way[1] /weɪ/ *n* **1** [C] the (right) road, path, etc., to follow in order to reach a place: *Is this the way out?* | *Can you tell me the way to the library?* | *If you* **lose your way,** *ask a policeman.* | *It's getting late; we must be* **on our way.** (=we must leave) | *The pilgrims were* **on the/their way to** (=travelling towards) *Canterbury.* | (fig.) *The new hospital is* **well on the way to** *being finished* (=is almost finished). | (fig.) *They claim to be* **leading the way** *in the fight against terrorism.* **2** [C] a direction: *Which way is the house from here?* | *Come this way.* (=in this direction) **3** [(*the*) S] also **ways** *esp. AmE*– the distance in space or time to be travelled in order to reach a place or point: *We were a long way from home.* | *A woman sat down beside me as we started, and she chattered nonstop the whole way.* | *Christmas is still a long way off.* | (fig.) *Prices vary* **all the way** *from £5 to £50.* | (fig.) *I'm with you* **all the way.** (=agree with and support you completely) **4** [C] a method or manner of doing something: *Do it this way.* | *These vegetables can be cooked in several different ways.* | *They are trying to find a way of settling the dispute.* | *We couldn't contact you – we had no way of knowing where you were.* | *We could have the car fixed here or get it towed home;* **either way** (=whichever course of action we choose) *it will be very expensive.* [+*to-v*] *What's the right way to say this in English?* | *(infml) She doesn't enjoy her job the way she used to* . (=as she used to) **5** [C] a particular manner or style of behaviour: *He has a pleasant way of speaking.* | *I don't like the way that* (=in which) *you laugh at her.* | *the American way of life* | *They eventually came round to our* **way of thinking.** (=began to share our opinion) **6** [C] a particular point or detail (of many possible): **In some ways** *it's quite a good idea, but the high cost makes it impossible.* | **In a way** *I can see what you mean, even though I don't share your point of view.* | *The result should* **in no way** *be seen as a defeat for the government.* **7** [S] (used esp. with verbs that do not express movement to describe an advance towards a particular result) one's path or course: *The acid bit its way through the metal.* | *She managed to talk her way out of a difficult situation.* | *He worked his way through college.* (=paid for his education by working at the same time) —see also **make one's way** (WAY[1] (21)) **8** [(*the*) S] the room or space needed for movement or activity: *I couldn't get through the door because there was a big box in the way.* | *Clear a way through the crowd.* | *Move out of my way so that I can get to the kitchen.* | (fig.) *Her social life* **got in the way of** *her studies.* (=prevented her from having the time she needed for studying) | (fig.) *The success of these talks will* **clear the way for** *the release of the hostages.* —see also **make way** (WAY[1] (22)) **9** [U] freedom to do exactly what one wants (esp. in the phrase **my/his/her, etc. way**): *If I had my way, these drug dealers would be shot!* | *He's very charming and always manages to* **get his own way.** **10** [U] forward movement; HEADWAY: *The ship was rapidly* **gathering way.** (=going faster) **11** [S] the stated condition, esp. of health: *I'm afraid he's* **in a bad way.**(=is ill) **12** [C] (esp. in names) a road or path: *a cycle way* | *Abercrombie Way* —see also HIGHWAY, PERMANENT WAY, RAILWAY, RUNWAY; see STREET (USAGE) **13 always the way** *infml* (esp. of something bad) what always happens: *"The train was late." "That's always the way when you're in a hurry."* **14 by the way** (used to introduce a new subject in speech) in addition: *Oh by the way, have you heard from Bill lately?* —see USAGE **15 by way of: a** by going through: *We went by way of London.* **b** *esp. BrE* as a sort of or instead of: *We had some sandwiches by way of a meal.* **c** with the intention of: *By way of introducing himself he showed me his card.* **16 every which way** *AmE infml* in every direction; all over the place: *When the police arrived, the crowd started running every which way.* **17 give way (to): a** to admit defeat in an argument or fight: *My new evidence forced him to give way.* **b** to break under pressure; COLLAPSE: *The floor gave way under the heavy weight.* **c** *BrE* ‖ usu. **yield** *AmE*– to allow other traffic to go first: *You must give way when you come to this junction.* **d** to have its place taken by: *Steam trains gave way to electric trains.* **e** to allow oneself to show (esp. a feeling): *He gave way to tears.* **18 go out of the/one's way (to do)** to take the trouble (to do); make a special effort, esp. in spite of difficulties: *Although he was busy he went out of his way to help me.* | *She went out of her way to make things difficult for us.* **19 have a way with one** *infml* to have an attractive quality which persuades or pleases other people **20 have it 'both ways** to gain advantage from each of two opposing opinions or actions: *You'll have to decide whether you want to lose weight or eat chocolates; you can't have it both ways!* **21 make one's way** to go: *I made my way home|towards the harbour|along the road|up the stairs.* **22 make way** to get out of someone's path; provide the necessary space: *Make way, there! I need to get through.* | *The old houses were knocked down to* **make way for** *a new office development.* **23 no way** *infml* (used to show strong refusal or opposition): *"Will you help me do this?" "No way; do it yourself!"* | *There's no way I'm agreeing to that!* **24 out of the way** unusual or not commonly known: *We did nothing out of the way on our holiday.* —see also OUT-OF-THE-WAY **25 put someone in the way of (doing) something** *BrE old-fash* to give someone the chance of doing/getting something: *He put me in the way of a job.* **26 to 'my way of thinking** in my opinion **27 under way** moving forward: *The great ship got under way.* | (fig.) *Our project is now well under way.* —see also WAYS, EACH WAY, RIGHT OF WAY, WAYS AND MEANS, **in the family way** (FAMILY), **pave the way** (PAVE), **pay one's way** (PAY[1]), **see one's way (clear) to** (SEE[1]) **28** *AmE* **way to go** (used to express satisfaction at or approval of something someone has done): *Way to go, team!*

▷ USAGE 1 **Way** is not usually used when you are thinking of a particular **road**, **path,** or **track** etc.: *There's a car outside parked in the* **road.** | *We followed a muddy* **path** *through the forest.* | *The shortest route to the village isn't by the main* **road** *but by a narrow, overgrown* **track.** —see also STREET (USAGE). 2 **By the way.** Although this expression seems to suggest that you are going to add unimportant information, in fact it is often used to introduce a subject that is really very important to you: **By the way,** *I wonder if we could discuss my salary some time?* | **By the way,** *do you think you could lend me £10?* —see also INCIDENTALLY (USAGE)◁

way[2] *adv* **1** [+*adv*|*prep*] far: *That happened way back in the 19th century.* | *Their profits were way below the original forecasts.* | *We're friends* **from way back.** (=have been friends a very long time) **2** [after *n*] near: *They live down Canterbury way.*

way·bill /ˈweɪˌbɪl/ *n* a paper showing details of goods or passengers being carried or delivered

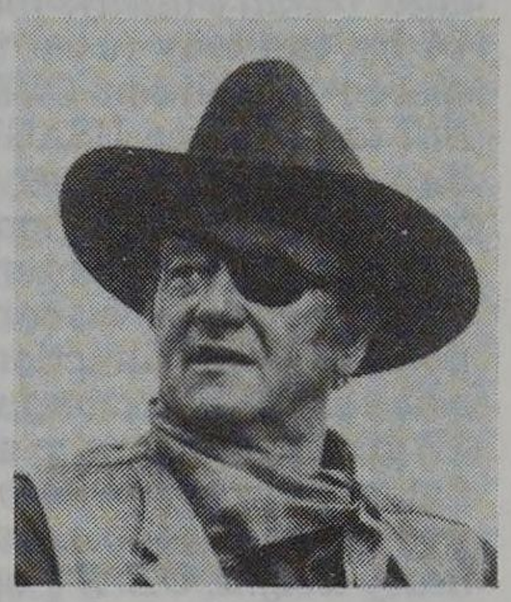
way·far·er /ˈweɪˌfeərəʳ/ *n esp. old use or lit* a traveller on foot —**wayfaring** *adj* [A]

way·lay /weɪˈleɪ/ *v* **-laid** /ˈleɪd/ [T] to wait for and stop (someone going somewhere), esp. in order to attack them: *The travellers were waylaid by bandits.* | (fig.) *She waylaid me in the corridor and asked if she could speak to me in private.*

Wayne /weɪn/**, John** (1907–79) an American film actor whose films include *Stagecoach* and *True Grit.* The characters John Wayne played, esp. in WESTERNS, were often honest, strong, independent, and PATRIOTIC (=loving one's country). Because he played these characters, John Wayne was thought to have these qualities himself and to be an example of a good American: *He was the John Wayne of the American Marines.*

way of life /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **ways of life** **1** daily behaviour typical of a group of people, or chosen by someone: *the British way of life | That family have a very strange way of life.* **2** the most important thing in one's life: *Being a doctor isn't a job, it's a way of life.*

John Wayne



way-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml, becoming old-fash* unusual or strange, esp. in a modern way: *way-out clothes|music*

ways /weɪz/ *n* **1** [P] customs or habits: *We all have our funny little ways.* —see also **mend one's ways** (MEND[1]) **2** [S] *esp. AmE for* WAY[1] (3): *We've a long ways to go yet.*

-ways see WORD FORMATION

ways and means /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [P] **1** methods of doing or obtaining something, esp. unusual or mysterious methods: *These addicts seem to have ways and means of getting the drugs they need.* **2** means of obtaining the money that is needed by a government to carry out its plans: *the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives*

way·side /ˈweɪsaɪd/ *n* [*the* +S] *esp. old use* the side of the road or path: *a wayside inn* —see also **fall by the wayside** (FALL[1])

way·ward /ˈweɪwəd‖-wərd/ *adj usu. derog* changeable and difficult to guide or advise: *wayward behaviour | their wayward son* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

WC /ˌdʌbəljuː ˈsiː/ *n old-fash* water closet; a TOILET which is emptied by a flow of water from the pipes —see TOILET (USAGE)

we /wi; *strong* wiː/ *pron* (*used as the subject of a sentence*) **1** (plural of **I**) the people speaking; oneself and one or more others: *We were all very excited when we heard the news. | Shall we* (=you and I) *sit together, Mary? | Can we* (=I and the others) *go now, sir?* **2** *fml* (used by a king or queen in official language) I **3** (used by a writer or speaker) you (the reader or listener) and I: *We saw in the previous chapter how the king persuaded his nobles to stop quarrelling ... | We have all heard stories about people being burgled.* **4** (used esp. to children and sick people) you: *Now, we must be a brave girl, and stop crying. | And how are we feeling today, Mr Jones?* (Many people do not like this use of **we**) **5** *fml* people in general; human beings: *Do we have the right to destroy the world in which we live?* —see also ROYAL WE

WEA /ˌdʌbəljuː iː ˈeɪ/ [*the*] Workers' Educational Association; a British group which arranges classes for adults, esp. working-class people who may not have had a very good education

weak /wiːk/ *adj* **1** not strong, esp. not strong enough to work or last properly: *I still feel a bit weak after my illness. | The shelf is too weak to hold all those books. | Her pulse is weak, she must be very ill. | a weak radio signal.| a weak heart | weak eyes* **2** not strong or firm in character; not determined or severe enough: *The teacher's so weak that the children do what they like. | a weak and indecisive leader | too weak-willed to resist their arguments* —see also WEAK-KNEED **3** *sometimes derog* containing a lot of water; having little taste: *weak soup|tea* —compare STRONG (6) **4** [**(at, in)**] not reaching a good standard; of lower than average skill or ability: *She's weak in|at French. | Her French is rather weak.* **5** lacking effectiveness or persuasiveness: *weak arguments | The play was well acted, but I thought the plot was a bit weak.* **6** [*no comp.*] *tech* (of a verb) forming the past tense and past participle in a regular way, with the usual endings: *Stepped is a weak form; swam and swum are strong.* —compare STRONG (11) **7 weak at the knees** infml (of a person) not well or strong, esp. after something surprising or unpleasant has happened — ~**ly** *adv*

weak·en /ˈwiːkən/ *v* [I;T] **1** to make or become weaker: *She weakened as the illness grew worse. | The illness weakened her heart. | These internal disputes have weakened the government's position.* **2** to make or become less determined: *She asked so many times that in the end we weakened and let her go. | None of these setbacks could* **weaken her resolve** *to become a doctor.*

weaker sex /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing.|pl. v*] *pomp* women in general; most women would consider this offensive now

weak force /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [*the*] one of the four FUNDAMENTAL FORCES, which causes RADIOACTIVITY

weak-kneed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml derog* habitually nervous and lacking determination; cowardly; IRRESOLUTE

weak·ling /ˈwiːk-lɪŋ/ *n derog* a person who lacks physical strength or strength of character

weak·ness /ˈwiːknəs/ *n* **1** [U] the fact or state of being weak, esp. in mind, body, or character: *The president was accused of weakness in dealing with the crisis.* **2** [C] an imperfect part, esp. one that spoils the rest: *a structural weakness in the aircraft | The only weakness of|in the plan is its cost.* **3** [C] a fault in character; FAILING: *Drinking is his weakness.* **4** [C (**for**)] a strong liking, esp. for something that is bad or slightly disapproved of: *I have a weakness for chocolate.* —compare STRENGTH

weal /wiːl/ *n* a raised usu. red mark on the skin where one has been hit

Weald /wiːld/ [*the*] an area in SE England in the counties (COUNTY) of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, famous for its fruit and vegetable growing

wealth /welθ/ *n* **1** [U] a large amount of money and possessions: *How did he acquire his great wealth? | The country's wealth comes from its oil. | a man of wealth* **2** [S (**of**)] *fml or pomp* a large number or amount: *a wealth of examples|of experience*

wealth·y /ˈwelθi/ *adj* (esp. of a person, family, or country) rich

wean /wiːn/ *v* [T] to introduce (a baby or young animal) to the habit of eating ordinary food instead of mother's milk

wean sbdy. **from|off** sthg. *phr v* [T+*obj*|*v-ing*] to cause to gradually leave (an interest, habit, companion, etc., that one disapproves of): *She tried to wean him (away) from (taking) drugs.*

wean sbdy. **on** sthg. *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to cause to grow up under the influence of: *Today's generation is being weaned on television.*

weap·on /ˈwepən/ *n* anything used to fight with, such as a sword, gun, or bomb: *They used anything that came to hand — stones, pieces of wood, bottles — as weapons. | nuclear|conventional weapons* | (fig.) *The newspapers use these sensational stories as a weapon in the bid to gain readers.* —see also CHEMICAL WEAPON

weap·on·ry /ˈwepənri/ *n* [U] weapons: *nuclear weaponry*

wear[1] /weəʳ/ *v* **wore** /wɔːʳ/, **worn** /wɔːn‖wɔːrn/ **1** [T] to have on one's body, esp. as clothing, but sometimes also for protection, decoration, or other purposes: *He's wearing a new coat. | She usually wears her hair up.* (=in a raised style) | *She was wearing her diamonds|wearing an expensive perfume. | He wore dark glasses to protect his eyes from the strong sunlight. | Is it compulsory to wear seat belts when you're driving?* —compare HAVE **on**; see DRESS (USAGE) **2** [T] to have (a particular expression) on the face: *She wore an angry frown.* **3** [I] to be reduced, weakened, or damaged by continued use, rubbing, etc.: *I liked this shirt, but the collar has worn.* —see also WEAR **away**, WEAR **down**, WEAR **out** **4** [T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] to produce by wear, use, rubbing, etc.: *You've worn a hole in your sock. | The villagers had worn a path through the fields.* **5** [I+*adv*] to last in the stated condition: *These modern concrete buildings have worn badly.* (=no longer look good or remain in good condition) | *Considering her age, she has worn well.* (=still looks young) **6** [T *usu. in questions and negatives*] *infml, esp. BrE* to allow or find acceptable: *I was going to suggest Fiji for our holiday, but I don't think father will wear it.* **7 wear one's heart on one's sleeve** *infml* to show one's true feelings openly instead of hiding them **8 wear the trousers** *BrE* ‖ **pants** *AmE— infml* to be in charge: *Who wears the trousers in your house — you or your wife?* —see also WORN — ~**able** *adj*

wear (sthg.↔) **away** *phr v* [I;T] to (cause to) disappear or be removed gradually through continued use, rubbing, etc.: *In the course of centuries, the wind has worn the rocks away.*

wear sthg./sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to gradually reduce the size of: *The constant rubbing wore down the surface of the stone. | My shoes are badly worn down at the heels.* **2** to lessen the strength or determination of, by a long gradual process: *We wore down their opposition*

after several hours' argument. | *Months of illness wore her down.*

wear off *phr v* [I] (of a feeling, effect, etc., esp. an unpleasant one) to become less strong; to be reduced until it disappears: *The pain is wearing off.*

wear on *phr v* [I] to pass slowly in time: *The meeting wore on all afternoon.*

wear out *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**wear** sthg. ↔ **out**)] to (cause to) be reduced to nothing or to a useless state by long use: *Those thin shoes will wear out quickly.* **2** [T] (**wear** sbdy. ↔ **out**) to tire greatly; EXHAUST: *These children are wearing me out.* —see also OUTWORN, WORN-OUT

wear[2] *n* [U] **1** the act of wearing esp. clothes: *This suit only had a year's wear before it wore out.* **2** use which reduces, weakens, or spoils the material: *This carpet has had a lot of wear.* **3** damage resulting from continuous use: *These shoes I bought last week are already showing signs of wear.* **4** the quality of lasting in use: *There's a lot of wear in these tyres.* **5** (*often in comb.*) clothes of the stated type, or for the stated purpose: *men's wear* | *evening wear* | *holiday wear* | *footwear* (=shoes) | *swimwear* —see also **the worse for wear** (WORSE[1])

Wear /wɪəʳ/ [*the*] a river in NE England which flows through County Durham to the North Sea near Sunderland —see also TYNE AND WEAR

wear and tear /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] the damaging effects of ordinary use over a long period; WEAR[2] (3): *When you calculate the value of the car you must allow for wear and tear.* | (fig.) *the wear and tear of modern city life*

wear·ing /ˈweərɪŋ/ *adj* tiring: *I find him very wearing when he talks on and on.* | *It's a very wearing job.* —see also HARDWEARING

wear·i·some /ˈwɪərisəm/ *adj esp. fml or lit* which makes one feel tired, BORED, or annoyed; IRKSOME: *a wearisome day|task|child*

wear·y[1] /ˈwɪəri/ *adj* [(**of**)] **1** very tired, esp. after long work or a long journey: *I'm feeling weary.* | *a weary smile* | *weary travellers* | *I'm weary of all this arguing.* **2** *infml* which makes one tired: *a weary day* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

weary[2] *v* [I (**of**);T (**with**)] *esp. fml or lit* to make or become weary: *He began to weary of the work.* | *You're wearying me with all these silly questions.*

wea·sel[1] /ˈwiːzəl/ *n* **1** a small thin furry animal with a pointed face which can kill other small animals. There is a well-known children's song called *Pop goes the Weasel.* **2** *AmE sl* a dishonest person

weasel



weasel[2] *v*

weasel out *phr v* [I (**of**)] *infml, esp. AmE* to escape or avoid a duty by clever dishonest means: *to weasel out of a responsibility*

weasel word /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [*often* P] *AmE infml* a word used in place of some other word that would be more direct, honest, or clear: *He said she borrowed it but I think that was a weasel word for 'steal'.* | *With the election around the corner, politicians will only venture weasel words on that issue.*

weath·er[1] /ˈweðəʳ/ *n* [(*the*) U] **1** the condition of wind, temperature, rain, sunshine, snow, etc., at a certain time or over a period of time. British people often have conversations about the weather: *good|nice weather* | *The party will be held outdoors,* **weather permitting.** (=if the weather is fine) | *severe weather conditions* | *a period of hot weather* | *What will the weather be like tomorrow?* — compare CLIMATE **2 in all weathers** in every kind of weather, esp. in bad or difficult weather conditions such as storms or extreme heat **3 keep one's/a weather eye open (for)** to be ready (for what may happen, such as trouble) **4 under the weather** *infml* slightly ill —see also FAIR-WEATHER, **make heavy weather of something** (HEAVY[1])

weather[2] *v* **1** [T] to pass safely through (a storm or a difficult period): *Once this crisis had been weathered, the government's fortunes improved.* **2** [I;T] to change or be changed by being left in the air and weather over a period of time: *Wood weathers better* (=is less damaged by rain, etc.) *if it is treated with creosote.*

weather-beat·en /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *adj* marked or damaged by the force of wind, sun, rain, etc.: *a weather-beaten face* (=brown and lined)

weath·er·board /ˈweðəbɔːd‖-ərbɔːrd/ *n* **1** [U] also **weath·er·board·ing** /-ˌbɔːdɪŋ‖-ˌbɔːr-/ ‖ also **clapboard** *AmE*— boards covering the outer walls of a house **2** [C] a board or set of boards fixed across the bottom of a door, to prevent floods from getting inside

weatherboard house /ˈ··· ˌ·/ a type of US home found esp. in New England with overlapping (OVERLAP) wooden boards on the outside —see colour picture on page 161

weather-bound /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* unable to move or take place because of bad weather

weath·er·cock /ˈweðəkɒk‖-ərkɑːk/ *n* a WEATHER VANE, sometimes in the shape of a COCK[1] (1)

weather eye /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [usu. S] **1** an ability to know in advance how the weather will change **2** close and active awareness of a situation that one expects will change soon, esp. in the phrase **keep a weather eye out/open**

weather fore·cast /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a description of likely future weather conditions, e.g. in a newspaper or on a radio-broadcast —**~er** *n*

Weath·er·ill /ˈweðərɪl/, **Ber·nard** /ˈbɜːnəd‖ˈbɜːrnərd/ (1920–) a British Conservative politician, and Speaker of the House of Commons from 1983 to 1992

weath·er·man /ˈweðəmæn‖-ər-/ *n* **-men** /men/ a weather forecaster, esp. on television or radio: *According to the weatherman, we'll have snow tomorrow.*

weath·er·proof[1] /ˈweðəpruːf‖-ər-/ *adj* (esp. of a garment) which can keep out wind and rain

weatherproof[2] *v* [T] to make (a material) weatherproof

weather ship /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a ship at sea which reports on weather conditions

weather sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a place or building used for studying and recording weather conditions

weather strip /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a thin piece of INSULATION put around the edge of a door or window to keep cold air from coming inside —**ping** *n* [U]

weather vane /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small metal apparatus fixed to the top of a building, which is blown round and so shows the direction of the wind

weave[1] /wiːv/ *v* **wove** /wəʊv/, **woven** /ˈwəʊvən/ **1** [I] to form threads into material by drawing one thread at a time under and over a set of longer threads stretched out on a LOOM **2** [T] to make by doing this: *woven fabric* | (fig.,*lit*) *He wove a fascinating story from a few forgotten incidents.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to twist or wind: *He wove some branches together to form a roof.* **4** [T] to form by twisting parts together: *to weave a basket* | *These birds weave their nests out of sticks and feathers.* **5** (*past tense & participle* **weaved**) [I+*adv|prep*;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to move along or make (one's way) by turning and changing direction frequently: *The cyclist was weaving in and out between the cars.* | *He weaved his way through the crowd.* **6 get weaving** *BrE infml* **a** to become busy **b** to begin hurriedly

weave[2] *n* the way in which a material is woven and the pattern formed by this: *a loose|fine|herringbone weave*

weav·er /ˈwiːvəʳ/ *n* a person whose job is to weave cloth

web /web/ *n* **1** a net of thin threads made esp. by SPIDERS to catch insects: *The spider was spinning* (=making) *a web.* | (fig.) *a web of deceit* (=a set of lies) | (fig.) *a complex web of relationships* —see also COBWEB, and see picture at SPIDER **2** the skin filling the space between the toes of ducks and some other animals which use their feet for swimming

webbed /webd/ *adj* having a WEB (2) (between the toes): *webbed feet* | *webbed toes*

web·bing /ˈwebɪŋ/ *n* [U] strong woven material in narrow bands, used for supporting springs in seats, for belts, etc.

web-foot·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ also **web-toed** /ˌ· ˈ·/— *adj* (of an animal) having webbed feet: *Ducks are web-footed.*

web off·set /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a method of printing using one continuous roll of paper

Web·ster[1] /ˈwebstəʳ/, **Dan·iel** /ˈdænjəl/ (1782–1852) an American politician who believed in a strong central

government and was called the "defender of the Constitution". He is also known for being a great speaker.

Webster², Noah (1758–1843) an American LEXICOGRAPHER (=writer of dictionaries). Some dictionaries are called "Webster's" even if they are not based on his work.

wed /wed/ *v* **wedded** *or* **wed** [I;T *not in progressive forms*] *old use or lit* (also used in newspapers) to marry: *They were wed in the spring.* | *"President's daughter to wed oil millionaire"* (title of newspaper story) —see also **with this ring I thee wed** (RING¹ (10))

we'd /wid; *strong* wi:d/*short for:* **1** we had: *We'd better go now.* **2** we would: *We'd rather stay.*

Wed. *written abbrev. for:* Wednesday

wed·ded /'wedɨd/ *adj* **1** [A] *fml or lit* having been legally married: *my* **(lawful) wedded husband/wife** **2** [F+**to**] keen on; unable to give up (esp. an idea): *He's very much wedded to the idea of free trade.*

wed·ding /'wedɪŋ/ *n* a marriage ceremony, esp. with a party or meal after a church service: *Have you been invited to their wedding?*

►CULTURAL NOTE There are many types of wedding in Britain and the US depending on whether you are Christian, Moslem, Jewish, Hindu, etc. Many people get married in church. Other people get married at a **registry office** *BrE* ‖ office of the **justice of the peace** *AmE*, often followed by a party at home or in a hotel. —see also extra information on page 1406◄

wedding break·fast /'·· ˌ··/ *n esp. BrE* a meal after a marriage ceremony, for the families and guests. Although it is called a breakfast, the meal is a LUNCH or dinner. —see also extra information on page 1406

wedding cake /'·· ·/ *n* [C;U] a cake made for a marriage ceremony. —see picture on page 1406

►CULTURAL NOTE A wedding cake in Britain is usu. white, often with three levels (TIERS), one on top of the other, and is cut by the BRIDE and GROOM at the wedding reception. What is left after the wedding is cut up and sent in small boxes to people who were not at the wedding. The top tier is sometimes kept until the first child is christened (CHRISTEN).◄

wedding chap·el /'·· ˌ··/ a building used in the US for wedding ceremonies —see picture on page 1406

wedding dress /'·· ˌ·/ *n* a long usu. white dress worn at a TRADITIONAL wedding —see also extra information on page 1406

Wedding March /'·· ·/ [*the*] a piece of music which is often played after a marriage ceremony, when the BRIDE and GROOM begin to walk down the AISLE (=path between seats) of the church. It can be played on other occasions to suggest a wedding.

wedding night /'·· ˌ·/ *n* the night following a couple's wedding, which in the past was usu. the first night that the couple had slept together and had sex

wedding pres·ent /'·· ˌ··/ *n* a gift given to two people who are getting married

wedding re·cep·tion /'·· ·ˌ··/ also **reception**— *n* a party held after a wedding, usu. by the married COUPLE or the BRIDE's parents —see extra information on page 1406

wedding ring /'·· ·/ also **wedding band** *old-fash*— *n* a usu. gold ring used in the marriage ceremony and worn on the third finger of the left hand to show that one is married —see picture at RING and see also extra information on page 1406

wedge¹ /wedʒ/ *n* **1** a piece of wood or other hard material with a V-shaped edge, one end being thin and the other quite wide, used esp. for making a space (to split or break something, e.g. a piece of wood) or filling a space (to hold two things together): *Put a wedge in the door so that it will stay open.* | (fig.) *He felt that the differences in their religions were* **driving a wedge between** *them.* (=separating them) **2** something shaped like this: *a wedge of chocolate cake* —see also **thin end of the wedge** (THIN¹ (10)) **3** a GOLF CLUB (2) with a metal head and an angled face, used esp. for hitting the ball out of a BUNKER

wedge² *v* [T] **1** to fix firmly with a wedge: *Wedge the door (open/shut).* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to force into a narrow or limited space: *The people sitting close to me wedged me in/wedged me into the corner.*

Wedg·wood /'wedʒwʊd/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of English CHINA, usu. having white figures or shapes on a background of blue, green, or black (named after **Josiah Wedgwood** (1730–95) who established the factory and first made the china)

wed·lock /'wedlɒk‖-lɑ:k/ *n* [U] *old use* **1** the state of being married **2 out of wedlock** of unmarried parents: *children born out of wedlock*

Wednes·day /'wenzdi/ (*written abbrev.* **Wed.** *or* **Weds.**) *n* [C;U] the third day of the week, between Tuesday and Thursday: *He'll arrive on Wednesday.* | (*BrE infml & AmE*) *He'll arrive Wednesday.* | *She left last Wednesday.* | *We go shopping on Wednesdays.* | *My birthday is on a Wednesday this year.* —see also DAY (CULTURAL NOTE)

Weds. *written abbrev. for:* Wednesday

wee¹ /wi:/ *adj* [A] **1** *ScotE or infml* very small: *a wee child* **2 a wee bit** *infml* rather: *I'm afraid he's a wee bit drunk.* **3** *ScotE* **a wee dram** a glass of WHISKY **4** *ScotE and AmE* **wee hours** SMALL HOURS

wee² also **wee-wee** /'· ·/— *v* [I] *infml* (used esp. by or to children) to pass water from the body; URINATE — **wee, wee-wee** *n* [S]: *She wants to have/do a wee-wee.*

weed¹ /wi:d/ *n* **1** [C] an unwanted wild plant, esp. one which prevents crops or garden flowers from growing properly **2** [C] *BrE infml derog* (used esp. by children to other children) **a** a person who is physically weak and usu. very thin and tall **b** a person of weak character **3** [*the*+S] *infml* cigarettes or (something made of) tobacco **4** [U] *old-fash sl* CANNABIS; MARIJUANA

weed² *v* [I;T] to remove weeds from (a place where crops or flowers grow): *I spent the morning weeding (the garden).*

weed sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to get rid of (people or things of unacceptable quality) in order to improve something: *a series of tests to weed out incompetent operators from the workforce*

weed·kil·ler /'wi:dkɪlə^r/ *n* [U] a poison used for killing weeds

weeds /wi:dz/ *n* [P] *old use* black clothes worn at a funeral and sometimes for a period of time after that: *wearing her* **widow's weeds**

Weed Whacker /'wi:d ˌwɑkə^r/ *AmE tdmk* STRIMMER

weed·y /'wi:di/ *adj infml derog* **1 a** thin and physically weak **b** weak in character **2** full of WEEDS¹ (1): *a weedy garden* —**-iness** *n* [U]

Wee Free /ˌ· '·/ *n, adj infml, often derog* see FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

week /wi:k/ *n* **1** a period of seven days (and nights), usu. measured in Britain from Monday to Sunday, but in the US and sometimes in Britain measured from Sunday to Saturday: *Wednesday is the third day of the week.* | *The flight to Accra goes twice a week.* | *I'll see you next week.* | *The training programme lasts three weeks.* **2** also **working week**— the period of time during which one works in any seven days, for example in a factory or office. Most people in Britain work from Monday to Friday and work between 35 and 40 hours in total: *She works a 35-hour week.* | *The five-day week is usual in most firms.* **3 (Monday, Tuesday, etc.) week** also **a week on (Monday, Tuesday, etc.)**— *esp. BrE* a week after (the stated day): *She'll be here tomorrow week.* | *She's coming on Sunday week/a week on Sunday.* **4 (a) week last/next/ this/on (Monday, Tuesday, etc.)** a week before or after (the stated day): *It happened a week last Monday.* | *He's arriving two weeks next Saturday.* **5 week after week** also **week in week out**— continuously for many weeks: *He lay in bed week after week.*

week·day /'wi:kdeɪ/ *n* any day of the week except Sunday and usu. Saturday: *I only work on weekdays, not at weekends.*

week·end¹ /ˌwi:k'end, 'wi:kend‖'wi:kend/ *n* **1** Saturday and Sunday, esp. when considered as a holiday from work: *I don't work at weekends.* | *a weekend cottage* | *We're going for a* **long weekend** (=Saturday, Sunday, and also Friday and/or Monday) *to Paris.* **2** this period of time with the addition of Friday evening from the time of stopping work —see HOLIDAY (USAGE)

▷USAGE In British English **at** is used with **weekend**: *I don't work* **at weekends**. | *What are you doing* **at the weekend**? In American English **on** is usually used: *I don't work* **weekends/on weekends**. | *What are you doing* **on the weekend**?◁

weekend² *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to spend the weekend: *We're weekending on the coast.*

week·end·er /ˌwiːkˈendəʳ‖ˈwiːken-/ *n* a person spending one or more weekends in a particular place: *They don't live here; they're only weekenders.*

week·ly¹ /ˈwiːkli/ *adj, adv* (happening or appearing) once a week or every week: *a weekly visit/magazine | the President's weekly radio talk | Are you paid weekly or monthly? | twice-weekly flights to Hong Kong*

weekly² *n* a magazine or newspaper which appears once a week

week·night /ˈwiːknaɪt/ *n* a night not at the weekend

wee·nie /ˈwiːni/ *n AmE infml* WIENER: *a weenie roast*

wee·ny /ˈwiːni/ *BrE* ‖ **weeney, ween·sie** /ˈwiːnzi/ *AmE– adj infml* extremely small –see also TEENY WEENY

weep /wiːp/ *v* **wept** /wept/ **1** [I (**over, for**);T] *fml or lit* to cry tears: *When he heard the news he broke down and wept. | She wept bitter tears over her lost youth.* –compare CRY¹ **2** [I] to lose liquid from a part of the body, esp. because of illness: *The wound is weeping.*

weep·ing /ˈwiːpɪŋ/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] (of a tree) with the branches hanging down: *a weeping willow*

weep·y /ˈwiːpi/ *adj infml* **1** tending to cry, or crying often; TEARFUL: *not very well, and feeling weepy* **2** (of a story, film, etc.) that makes one sad

Wee·ta·bix /ˈwiːtəbɪks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a breakfast food popular in Britain, made with whole wheat and eaten in a bowl with milk

wee·vil /ˈwiːvəl/ *n* a small BEETLE which spoils grain, seeds, etc., by feeding on them

Wee Wil·lie Win·kie /ˌwiː ˌwɪli ˈwɪŋki/ a character in a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children):
Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town,
Upstairs and downstairs in his nightgown…

weft /weft/ also **woof**– *n* [*the*+S] *tech* the threads of a material woven across the downward set of threads – compare WARP² (2)

weigh /weɪ/ *v* **1** [L+*n*] to have the stated weight: *It weighs six kilos. | I weigh less than I used to.* **2** [T] to find the weight of, esp. by using a machine: *Have you weighed yourself lately?* **3** [T (**against**)] to consider or compare carefully in order to form a judgment or make a decision: *He weighed the ideas in his mind. | You have to weigh the costs of the new system against the benefits it will bring.* –see also WEIGH **up** **4** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **with**] *fml* to be important (to) or have influence (on): *Her evidence weighed quite strongly with the judge. | a new argument that weighed heavily in her favour* **5** [T] *naut* to raise (an ANCHOR)

weigh sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (**with**) *often pass.*] to make or cause to feel heavy (with a load): *I was weighed down with the shopping. | The branches of the trees were weighed down by snow. |* (fig.) *weighed down with grief/with debts*

weigh in *phr v* [I] **1** [(**at**)] (of a BOXER or JOCKEY) to have one's weight tested before a fight or horse-race: *The champion weighed in at just under 13 stone.* **2** [(**with**)] *infml* to join in a fight or argument: *He weighed in (with information) to prove the point.*

weigh on sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to cause worry or great difficulty: *His responsibilities weighed on him. | The burden of debt weighs heavily on these developing countries.*

weigh sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to measure in amounts by weight: *The shopkeeper weighed out half a pound of coffee beans and ground them up.*

weigh sthg./sbdy. **up** *phr v* [T] to (try to) form an opinion or judgment about, esp. by balancing opposing facts, influences, etc.: *We're just weighing up the advantages and disadvantages.*

weigh·bridge /ˈweɪˌbrɪdʒ/ *n* a machine for weighing vehicles and their loads, including a flat area onto which the vehicles are driven

weight¹ /weɪt/ *n* **1** [C;U] the heaviness of something, esp. as measured by a certain system; amount that something weighs: *Can you guess the weight of this sack? | It's two kilos in weight.* (=it weighs two kilos) | *She's* **lost weight/put on weight** (got thinner/fatter) *since I last saw her. | My husband has a bit of a* **weight problem.** **2** [C] a piece of metal that has a known heaviness and **a** can be balanced against something else in order to measure its heaviness or **b** is lifted by people who want to develop large muscles or are competing in competitions –see also WEIGHT LIFTING **3** [C] (something with) a large amount of weight: *He's got a bad back so he can't lift weights.* **4** [U] a system of standard measures of weight: *metric weight* **5** [C (**on, off**)] (something that causes) a feeling of worry or anxiety: *The loss of the money has been a weight on my mind. | They've finally sold my house: that's a great weight off my mind.* **6** [U] the value, importance, or influence that someone or something has: *I don't* **attach any weight** *to these rumours.* (=I don't regard them as serious or believable) | *Don't worry what he thinks, his opinion doesn't* **carry much weight.** | *His declining health* **added weight** *to speculation that the king would soon abdicate.* **7 pull one's weight** to do one's full share of work: *My assistant hasn't been pulling her weight recently.* –see also PAPERWEIGHT, **throw one's weight about** (THROW¹)

weight² *v* [T (**with**)] to put a weight on or add something heavy to: *Fishing nets are weighted.*

weight sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] to load heavily; WEIGH **down**: *weighted down with her heavy bags*

weight·ed /ˈweɪtɨd/ *adj* [F (**in favour of, against**)] producing conditions favourable/unfavourable to a particular person or group: *These tests are weighted in favour of those people who have read the right books. | The voting system is weighted against the smaller parties.*

weight·ing /ˈweɪtɪŋ/ *n* [S;U] *BrE* something additional, esp. additional pay given because of the high cost of living in a certain area: *They got a London weighting of £1800 a year on top of their salaries.*

weight·less /ˈweɪtləs/ *adj* having no weight, e.g. when one is flying in space and free from the force of GRAVITY – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

weight lift·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **weight training**– *n* [U] the sport or exercise of lifting specially shaped weights (WEIGHT¹ (26)) –**-er** *n*

Weight Watch·ers /ˈ· ˌ··/ *tdmk* a British and American organization that helps people who want to lose weight, esp. by dieting (DIET)

weight·y /ˈweɪti/ *adj* **1** heavy **2** *fml* important and serious: *weighty matters/decisions* –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

Weill /vaɪl/, **Kurt** /kɜːt‖kɜːrt/ (1900–50) a German COMPOSER (=writer of music) best known for *The Threepenny Opera*

Wei·mar /ˈvaɪmɑːʳ/ a city in what was formerly East Germany, a centre of industry and the arts, and the scene of the meeting which established the REPUBLICAN government (the **Weimar Republic**) in 1919

weir /wɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a wall-like structure across a river or stream which controls the flow of water **2** a wooden fence across a stream for catching fish

Weir, Peter (1944–) an Australian film DIRECTOR known esp. for the films *Gallipoli* and *Witness*

weird /wɪəd‖wɪərd/ *adj* **1** very strange; unnatural, mysterious, and/or frightening; EERIE: *It was a weird old house, full of creaks and groans.* **2** *infml* unusual and not sensible or acceptable; BIZARRE: *She has some weird ideas.* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

weird·o /ˈwɪədəʊ‖ˈwɪər-/ also **weird·ie** /ˈwɪədi‖ˈwɪərdi/– *n infml, sometimes derog* a strange person, with unusual clothes, behaviour, etc. –**weirdo** *adj* [A] *a weirdo hair style…*

Weiss·mul·ler /ˈwaɪsmʌləʳ/, **John·ny** /ˈdʒɒni ‖ ˈdʒɑː-/ (1904–84) an American swimmer and film actor remembered esp. for playing the part of Tarzan

Wel·by /ˈwelbi/, **Mar·cus** /ˈmɑːkəs‖ˈmɑːr-/ a character from an American television show of the same name which was made in the 1970s. People often mention (Dr) Marcus Wellby when speaking of the perfect family doctor, always concerned and ready to be personally involved with his PATIENTS' problems.

welch /welʃ/ *v* [I (**on**)] to WELSH

Welch /weltʃ/, **Ra·quel** /ræˈkel/ (1940–) an American film star known for her beauty and her sexy figure

wel·come¹ /ˈwelkəm/ *interj* [(**to**)] (an expression of greeting to a guest or someone who has just arrived or returned): *Welcome to our home! | Welcome home/back!* (=when returning from another place) | *Welcome to England!*

welcome[2] *v* [T] **1** to greet (someone arriving in a new place) esp. with friendliness: *a welcoming smile | The Queen welcomed the President as he got off the plane.* **2** to be glad to accept; wish to have: *He doesn't welcome intrusions into his privacy. | I'd welcome any suggestions. | The college welcomes applications from people of all races.*

welcome[3] *adj* **1** gladly accepted; received with pleasure: *a welcome suggestion | All suggestions will be welcome. | You are always welcome at our house. | He didn't* **make** *his guests very* **welcome**. (=did not receive them in a friendly way) **2** pleasant and likeable; AGREEABLE: *a welcome change | a welcome break from the pressures of work* **3** [F] freely allowed (to have or do) something, esp. when this is something that no one else wants: [+**to**] *If he wants that job he's welcome to it – I wouldn't take it for a million pounds!* [+*to-v*] *You're welcome to try, but you won't succeed.* **4 You're welcome** esp. AmE (a polite expression when thanked for something): *"Here's your pen." "Thank you!" "You're welcome."*

welcome[4] *n* **1** a greeting given to someone when they arrive: *They gave us a* **warm welcome.** | (fig.) *Her suggestion received a rather unenthusiastic welcome.* **2 outstay/overstay one's welcome** to stay too long as a guest

welcome wag·on /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a person, thing, or activity that welcomes someone to a new place: *The company is rolling out the welcome wagon for the new sales recruits. | She's the neighbourhood welcome wagon, she'll be over at the new people's house before they unpack their boxes.*

weld[1] /weld/ *v* [I;T (**to**, TOGETHER)] to join (usu. metals) or be joined by pressure or melting together when hot: *They welded a steel plate onto the plane's damaged wing.* | (fig.) *to weld a strong friendship* –compare FORGE[1] (2), SOLDER[2]

weld[2] *n* the part joined in welding: *a strong weld*

weld·er /ˈweldəʳ/ *n* a person whose job is to make welded joints

wel·fare /ˈwelfeəʳ/ *n* [U] **1** health, comfort, and happiness; WELLBEING: *In making this decision, the court's main concern is for the welfare of the children.* **2** help provided for people with social problems, money difficulties, etc.: *The company's welfare officer deals with employees' personal problems.* | *welfare work* (=to improve life for poor people) **3** (in the US) (the system of) government money paid to people in special need: *Most of the families in this neighborhood are* **on welfare**. –see also FOOD STAMP, SOCIAL SECURITY; compare INCOME SUPPORT, SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

welfare state /ˌ·· ˈ·‖ˈ·· ·/ *n* [C; *the*+S] (a country with) a system of social help provided by the state, esp. one which gives money to people who are poor or unemployed, provides medical treatment, etc.

wel·far·is·m /ˈwelfeərɪzəm/ *n* [U] *AmE derog* a way of life in which one does not work and accepts money from the government in order to live and does not want this situation to change. Welfarism is a word used by people who think that there are too many government welfare programmes.

Welk /welk/, **Lawrence** (1902–92) an American band-leader who had a television programme in the 1950s and 1960s. He often said "a-one-and-a two-and-a" to give his band the beat before beginning to play.

wel·kin /ˈwelkɪn/ *n* [*the*+S] *poet* the sky

well[1] /wel/ *adv* **better** /ˈbetəʳ/, **best** /best/ **1** in a good way; satisfactorily, kindly, successfully, etc.: *She sings very well. | He's always done his job extremely well. | a well-dressed young man | The party* **went well.** (=was successful) | *They* **speak very well of** *her* (=have a high opinion of her) *at school. | The business is* **doing well.** (=succeeding) | *She* **did well** (=gained a good profit) **out of** *the sale of her house. | She's been doing better at school since the new teacher arrived.* –opposites **badly, ill** **2** thoroughly: *Wash it well before you dry it. | I'm* **well aware of** *the problems. | I know him quite well. | They were well beaten. | The pyramids are* **well worth** *seeing.* | (*BrE sl*) *He was well fed up.* (=extremely annoyed) **3** [+*adv*|*prep*] much; quite: *Profits were well above our original forecast. | He finished the exam well within the time allowed. | It's a popular hotel, so you'll need to make your reservations well in advance.* **4** justly, wisely, or properly: *I* **couldn't very well** *say no when there was no one else she could ask. | You did well to tell me.* (=it was a sensible thing to do) | *"Why wasn't she at the meeting?" "You* **may well ask**!*"* (=we were all wondering) **5 as well: a** in addition; also; too: *I'm going to London and my sister's coming as well.* **b** with as good a result: *The weather was so bad we* **might (just) as well** *have stayed at home.* **6 as well as** in addition to (being): *He was kind as well as sensible.* **7 (it's) just as well** (as a reply) it is fortunate (that); there's no harm done: *"We were too late to see the film." "Just as well; I hear it isn't very good."* **8 very well** *rather fml* (used as a form of agreement, but often with some degree of unwillingness): *"You ought to take a coat with you." "Oh very well, if I must."* **9 (all) well and good** *esp. BrE* not really good enough: *Dishwashers are all well and good, but washing-up by hand gets things cleaner.* **10 well and truly** *infml* completely: *George was well and truly drunk.* **11 Well done!** (said when someone has been successful): *You've passed your driving test – well done!* –see also WELL-DONE **12 well away: a** getting ahead: *We're well away on the rebuilding of the house.* **b** *infml, esp. BrE* starting to be drunk **13 well in with** having a good relationship (esp. with someone important or influential): *She's very well in with the sales director.* **14 well out of** *BrE infml* lucky to be free from: *She's well out of that marriage; they were never suited.* **15 well up in/on** *esp. BrE infml* well informed about: *She's well up in the latest fashions.* –see also **pretty well** (PRETTY[2])

well[2] *interj* **1** an expression of surprise: *She's got a new job. Well, well!* **2** (used for introducing an expression of surprise, doubt, acceptance, etc.): *Well, really, what a stupid thing to do! | Well, I'm not sure. | Well, all right, I agree.* **3** (used when continuing a story): *Well, then she said ...* **4 oh well!** (used for showing cheerfulness when something bad has happened): *Oh well, I can't complain; it was my own fault.*

well[3] *adj* **better, best** **1** in good health: *She's been ill a lot recently but she's looking very well now|she's looking much better now. | I don't feel at all well today.* **2** [F] *esp. lit or old-fash* in an acceptable state; satisfactory; right: *All's well that ends well.* (proverb) **3 it's all very well** (an expression of dissatisfaction when comparing what is practical to what is suggested): *It's all very well for you to criticize, but could you have done any better yourself?*

well[4] *n* **1** a place where water can be taken from underground: *The old well in the village had a wall round it and a bucket that could be lowered for water. | to* **sink a well** (=dig a hole to obtain water) *in order to irrigate the desert | well water* –see also WISHING WELL **2** an OIL WELL **3** an enclosed space in a building running straight up and down, for example for a LIFT[2] (2) to travel in –see also STAIRWELL **4** *BrE* the space in front of the judge in a law court

well[5] *v* [I+*adv*|*prep*] (of liquid) to flow or start to flow: *Blood welled (out) from the cut. | She was so angry that tears welled (up) in her eyes*

we'll /wil; *strong* wi:l/ *short for:* **1** we will **2** we shall

well-ad·jus·ted /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* (of a person) fitting in well with society and being emotionally healthy

well-ad·vised /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* sensible; wise: *a well-advised plan* [F+*to-v*] *You would be well-advised to see the doctor about that pain.*

well-ap·point·ed /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj fml* having all the necessary furniture, services, equipment, etc.: *a well-appointed hotel*

well-bal·anced /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** (of a person) sensible and not controlled by unreasonable feelings; STABLE **2** (of a meal or way of eating) containing the right amounts of what is good for the body: *a well-balanced diet*

well-be·haved /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* (usu. of children) behaving in a socially acceptable and polite way: *The children were very well-behaved on the train.*

well·be·ing /ˌwelˈbi:ɪŋ‖ˈwelˌbi:ɪŋ/ *n* [U] personal and physical comfort, esp. good health and happiness: *The warm sunny weather always gives me a* **sense of wellbeing.**

well-born /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj fml* born of an UPPER-CLASS family

well-bred /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj old-fash* (typical of someone) coming from a family of high social class, esp. in having good manners

well-brought-up /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* (usu. of children) very polite and having good manners: *That little boy has been very well-brought-up.*

well-cho·sen /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* chosen with care: *He replied to*

the vote of thanks with **a few well-chosen words.** (=a short but suitable speech)

well-con·nect·ed /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* knowing people of power and social importance, esp. being related to them

well-de·fined /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* clear in form or nature; easily recognizable: *The trees are well-defined in the picture.* | *well-defined limits*

well-dis·posed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* [(**towards**)] tending to be friendly, sympathetic, or favourable (towards a person or idea): *a well-disposed nature* | *The management is not well-disposed towards technical innovation.*

well-done /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of food, esp. meat) cooked for quite a long time, so that it is cooked all the way through – compare RARE[2]; see also **Well done!** (WELL[1])

well-dressed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* wearing attractive, stylish, and usu. expensive clothes

Welles /welz/, **Or·son** /ˈɔːsən‖ˈɔːr/ (1915–85) an American actor, director, and producer, whose famous works include his radio production of *The War of the Worlds* and his film *Citizen Kane*

well-earned /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* much deserved: *a well-earned rest after so much hard work*

well-es·tab·lished /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj* established for a number of years and so well known and respected: *a well-established firm of solicitors*

well-fa·voured /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj old-fash* (of a person) having an attractive appearance

well-fed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** eating good, healthy food **2** fat; PLUMP

well-found /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj tech* (esp. of a ship) having all the necessary equipment; WELL-APPOINTED

well-found·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* based on facts or good judgment: *Our suspicions were well-founded; she turned out to be a thief.*

well-groomed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having a very neat clean appearance, as if special care has been taken: *a well-groomed horse|woman|lawn*

well-ground·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** [F (**in**)] fully instructed or trained: *The soldiers were well-grounded in the skills needed to survive in the desert.* **2** well-founded

well-heeled /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* rich

well-hung /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj taboo apprec sl* **1** (of a man) having a large sex organ **2** *rare* (of a woman) having large breasts

wel·lie /ˈweli/ *n BrE infml* a WELLINGTON –see also GREEN WELLIE BRIGADE

well-in·formed /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** knowing a lot about several subjects **2** having good information about a particular subject; having good general knowledge: *According to a well-informed source, one of the President's leading advisers is going to resign.*

wel·ling·ton /ˈwelɪŋtən/ also **wellington boot** /ˌ··· ˈ·/, **welly, wellie** *infml* ‖ **rubber boot** *AmE– n esp. BrE* a rubber boot which keeps water from the feet and lower part of the legs –see picture at SHOE

Wellington[1] the capital city of New Zealand, on the North Island, the country's second-largest city and a main port

Wellington[2]**, Duke of** (1769–1852) a British soldier and politician best known for defeating Napoleon at Waterloo and serving as PRIME MINISTER (1828–30)

well-in·ten·tioned /ˌ· ·ˈ··ɛ◂/ *adj* acting with kind, friendly, or sensible intentions, though often with unfortunate or unwanted results: *a well-intentioned effort to help*

well-kept /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** well looked after or cared for: *a well-kept garden* **2** (of a secret) known only to very few people

well-known /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* known by many people: *a well-known fact|face|saying* | *It is well-known that too much sugar is bad for you.* | *one of the best-known opera singers of recent years* –see FAMOUS (USAGE)

well-lined /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* **1** full of money: *well-lined pockets* **2** (of the stomach) full of food

well-mean·ing /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* well-intentioned: *a well-meaning person|effort* –see also **mean well** (MEAN[2])

well-meant /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* said or done for a good or kind purpose though not with a good result: *Her help was well-meant, but it just made the job take longer.* –see also **mean well** (MEAN[2])

We'll Meet A·gain /ˌ· ˌ· ·ˈ·/ a sad song thought of in connection with the singer Vera Lynn about people meeting again after being separated, and popular esp. during the Second World War

well-nigh /ˈ· ·/ *adv fml BrE* or *AmE sl* almost: *well-nigh impossible*

well-off /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **better-off, best-off** **1** rich: *The government claims that most people are better-off than they were five years ago.* [also *n, the* + P] *something which only the well-off can afford* **2** [F (**for**)] having quite a lot: *We're quite well-off for good shops in this neighbourhood.* **3** [F] fortunate: *The trouble with you is* **you don't know when you're well off.** (=you're more fortunate than you know) –opposite **badly-off**; see also OFF[1] (10)

well-oiled /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj sl* drunk

well-paid /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (used of work, etc.) offering good payment: *a well-paid job* | *The work isn't very well paid.*

well-pre·served /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj apprec or euph* (of a person who is old or no longer young) showing few of the usual signs of age, esp. still in good physical condition

well-pro·por·tioned /ˌ· ·ˈ··◂/ *adj apprec* having an attractive size or shape; having good PROPORTIONS

well-read /ˌwel ˈred◂/ *adj* having read a lot of books and gained a lot of useful information, esp. in many different subjects

well-round·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** (of a person) having a full, pleasantly curved shape; SHAPELY **2** (esp. of a person's experience) full of different types of activity; complete and varied: *a well-rounded education* | *The new manager has a well-rounded background in the banking industry.*

Wells /welz/, **H G** (1866–1946) an English writer and social thinker whose books include *The Time Machine*, *The War of the Worlds*, and *Outline of History*

well-set /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj becoming rare* strong and with good muscles: *The young man was short but well-set.*

well-spok·en /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* having an educated and socially acceptable way of speaking

well·spring /ˈwelˌsprɪŋ/ *n* [(**of**)] *esp. lit* a never-ending supply

well-thought-of /ˌ· ˈ· ·◂/ *adj* (of a person) liked and admired generally

well-thought-out /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* considered in detail: *a well-thought-out plan of campaign*

well-thumbed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a book, its pages, etc.) showing signs of having been well used, thoroughly read, esp. by being dirty, creased (CREASE[2](1)), etc.: *a few well-thumbed paperbacks*

well-timed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* said or done at the most suitable time; OPPORTUNE: *well-timed advice*

well-to-do /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* rich; AFFLUENT: [also *n, the* + P] *luxury homes for the well-to-do*

well-tried /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* often used before and known to work well: *well-tried methods*

well-turned /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a phrase) carefully formed and expressed in a pleasing way: *a well-turned compliment*

well-versed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* knowing a lot about something: *She's well-versed in office politics.*

well-wish·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person giving good wishes to another: *Crowds of well-wishers gathered outside the hospital, waiting for a report on the President's operation.*

well-worn /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** worn or used for a long time **2** (of a phrase) with little meaning, because used too often; HACKNEYED: *a well-worn cliché*

wel·ly /ˈweli/ *n BrE* **1** [C] *infml* a WELLINGTON **2** [U] *sl* effort; power

welsh, welch /welʃ/ *v* [I (**on**)] *derog* **1** to avoid payment: *He welshed on his debts.* **2** to fail to fulfil a promise: *She welshed on her promises.* –~**er** *n*

▷ USAGE This verb is considered offensive by Welsh people.◁

Welsh *n* **1** [*the*+P] the people of Wales **2** [U] the CELTIC language of the people of Wales: *Do you speak Welsh?* – **Welsh** *adj* : *His voice has a distinct Welsh lilt.*

Welsh dres·ser /ˌ· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **hutch** *AmE– n* a piece of furniture consisting of drawers and cupboards up to around waist level, and then shelves to a height of about six feet, often used to DISPLAY plates, cups, etc.

Welsh Guards /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the* + P] a REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army used for ceremonies and previously to protect the king or queen. The Welsh Guards was formerly made up of men from Wales.

Welsh Na·tion·al·ist Par·ty /ˌ· ˈ·· ˌ··/ PLAID CYMRU

Welsh Na·tion·al·ists /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [P] Welsh people who want their rule to be independent from the government in London —see also PLAID CYMRU

Welsh National Op·e·ra /ˌ· ˌ·· ˈ··/ an OPERA company based in, and occasionally touring, Wales which is partly supported by government money

Welsh Of·fice /ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] a British government department responsible for certain services, such as health, in Wales

Welsh rare·bit /ˌwelʃ ˈreəbɪt‖-ˈreər-/ also **welsh rab·bit** /ˌ· ˈ··/— *n* a small meal of cheese melted on bread, sometimes with other things added, such as milk and beer

Welsh Wa·ter /ˌ· ˈ··/ a water company in Wales that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

welt /welt/ *n* **1** a piece of leather round the edge of a shoe to which the top and bottom are stitched **2** a raised mark on the skin where one has been hit, esp. with a whip

wel·ter /ˈweltəʳ/ *n* [S+**of**] a disordered mixture: *The researchers were buried under a welter of data.*

wel·ter·weight /ˈweltəweɪt‖-ər-/ *n* a BOXER (1) heavier than a LIGHTWEIGHT but lighter than a MIDDLEWEIGHT

Wem·bley /ˈwembli/ a place in London with a large STADIUM where important sports events such as the FA CUP final are held every year. There is also a large hall there used for popular music concerts.

wench[1] /wentʃ/ *n old use or lit* a girl or young woman, esp. in a country area: *A* **serving wench** *brought us our ale.*

wench[2] *v* [I] *old use* to have sex with many women, such as PROSTITUTES

wend /wend/ *v* **wend one's way** *esp. lit* to move or travel over a distance, esp. slowly: (fig.) *The new law is currently wending its way through Parliament.*

Wen·dy /ˈwendi/ one of the Darling children who were visited by Peter Pan in the story *Peter Pan* by J M Barrie —see also PETER PAN and see colour picture on page 619

wen·dy house /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *BrE*‖**play house** *AmE*— *n* a small house for children to play in, often made of cloth and about 1–2 metres high

Wen·dy's /ˈwendiz/ a FAST-FOOD restaurant in the US which serves mainly HAMBURGERS

Wens·ley·dale /ˈwenzlideɪl/ *n* [U] a not very strong white cheese made originally in Yorkshire

went /went/ *past tense of* GO

We Plough the Fields and Scat·ter /· ˌ· · ˌ· · ˈ··/ a religious song (HYMN) sung in Britain at Harvest Festival

wept /wept/ *past tense & participle of* WEEP

were /wəʳ; *strong* wɜːʳ/ *negative short form* **weren't** /wɜːnt ‖ ˈwɜːrənt, wɜːrnt/ *past tense of* BE

we're /wɪəʳ; *strong* wiːəʳ/ *short for:* we are

were·wolf /ˈweəwʊlf, ˈwɪə-‖ˈweər-, ˈwɪər-/ *n* **-wolves** /wʊlvz/ (in stories) a person who sometimes turns into a WOLF, esp. when there is a full moon

wert /wɜːt‖wɜːrt/ **thou wert** *old use or bibl* (when talking to one person) you were

We Shall O·ver·come /ˌ· · ˌ··ˈ·/ a song which was popular during the CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT in the US, when it was often sung at meetings and marches. It is still sung by groups who are fighting against unfair treatment.

Wes·ley /ˈwezli, ˈwes-/, **John** (1703–91) an Englishman who established METHODISM and whose writings and teachings became the principles of the Methodist Church

Wes·ley·an /ˈwezliən, ˈwes-/ *n, adj* (a member) of the branch of the PROTESTANT church established by John Wesley —see also METHODISM

Wes·sex /ˈwesɨks/ one of the ANGLO-SAXON kingdoms of England including Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Somerset, and Devon. Thomas Hardy used the name Wessex for the SW counties (COUNTY) in his books.

Wessex Wa·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a water company in SW England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

west[1] /west/ (abbrev. **W**) *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [*the*+S;U] the direction towards which the sun sets; the direction which is on the left of a person facing north: *I'm lost — which direction is West? | A strange light appeared in the west. | Heathrow Airport is a few kilometres to the west of London.* **2** [*the*+S] the western part of a country: *The rain will spread to the West later.* —see NORTH[2] (USAGE)

west[2] *adj* [A] **1** (*sometimes cap.*) in the west or facing the west: *You enter the church through the west door. | They live in West Germany|West Beirut.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the west: *a gentle west wind*

west[3] *adv* (*often cap.*) **1** towards the west: *The room faces west, so we get the evening sun. | The plane flew west. | Brest is (a long way) west of Paris.* **2 go west** *BrE humor* **a** to die **b** to be damaged or ruined **3 Go west young man** a phrase used when advising someone to go somewhere new to start a new and better life (originally in the American West)

West[1] *n* [*the*] **1** (the people of) the western part of the world, esp. western Europe and North America: *Leaders of the West are meeting Soviet leaders in Geneva today. | an improvement in East-West relations* **2** also **American West** the western part of the US, including the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and parts of Texas. States east of these are called the MIDWEST. Associations with the American West include the WILD WEST, COWBOYS, and NATIVE AMERICANS. —compare MIDWEST, PACIFIC NORTHWEST, WEST COAST, WILD WEST

West[2]**, Mae** /meɪ/ (1892–1980) an American actress who was a SEX SYMBOL of the 1930s, and is remembered for the phrase "Come up and see me sometime"

West[3]**, Tim·o·thy** /ˈtɪməθi/ (1934–) an English actor who appeared in *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Thirty-Nine Steps* among many other cinema and television performances

West Bank /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] the land W of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea between Israel and Jordan, which is occupied (OCCUPY) by the Israelis but which the Palestinian Arabs, together with the Gaza Strip, consider to be their land. After the 1967 war, the UN Security Council asked the Israelis to leave this area. —compare EAST BANK

west·bound /ˈwestbaʊnd/ *adj* travelling or leading towards the west: *westbound traffic | the westbound side of the motorway*

West Coast /ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the*] the western coastal states of the US, esp. California, but also Oregon and Washington State. The West Coast, because it mainly means California, is connected with good weather, sunny BEACHes, a sense of freedom, and people who do not have a CONVENTIONAL life. People from Oregon and Washington State are often thought of as deep-thinking nature-lovers. —compare EAST COAST, WEST, WILD WEST; see also CALIFORNIA, PACIFIC NORTHWEST

West Coun·try /ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] the south-west of England

West End /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ [*the*] the western part of central London considered a fashionable place, where large or important shops, theatres, etc., are: *a West End show* —see colour map on page 817

west·er·ly /ˈwestəli‖-ərli/ *adj* **1** towards or in the west: *We set off in a westerly direction.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the west: *a light westerly breeze*

west·ern[1] /ˈwestən‖-ərn/ *adj* [*no comp.*] (*often cap.*) of or belonging to the west part of the world or of a country: *The Russian ballet is making a tour of Western Europe. | Western values* —see NORTH[2] (USAGE)

western[2] *n* also **cowboy film** *BrE* ‖also **cowboy movie** *AmE*— (often cap.) a film about life in the American WEST (2) in the past, esp. about COWBOYS, horses, and gunfights. They are not usu. based on fact. —see WILD WEST; see also COUNTRY AND WESTERN

Western Aus·tra·li·a /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ the largest state of Australia, whose capital is Perth

West·ern·er /ˈwestənəʳ‖-tər-/ *n* **1** someone who lives in or comes from the WEST (1) **2** *AmE* someone who lives in or comes from the WEST (2)

Western Front /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] areas of France and Belgium where many battles of the First World War were fought

Western Isles /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the* + P] a REGION in NW Scotland consisting of the Outer Hebrides islands of Harris, Lewis, N and S Uist, and Barra

west·ern·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈwestənaɪz‖-ər-/ *v* [T] to cause or influence (esp. African or Asian people and countries) to have or copy the customs and behaviour typical of America and Europe: *Although she's a Muslim, she's very westernized in her dress.* **–-ization** /ˌwestənaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-ərnə-/ *n* [U]

Western medi·cine /ˌ·· ˈ··‖ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the science and practice of medicine that is standard in the West – compare ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

west·ern·most /ˈwestənməʊst‖-tər-/ *adj* [*no comp.*] furthest west: *the westernmost parts of Scotland*

West Ger·ma·ny /ˌ· ˈ···/ also **Federal Republic of Germany** a former country in W Europe, established in 1949 and joined with East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989–90 **–West German** *n, adj*

West Gla·mor·gan /ˌwest gləˈmɔːgən‖-ˈmɔːr-/ a COUNTY in S Wales which includes the city of Swansea

West Ham /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **the Hammers** *infml*– a British football team based in the area of the same name in E London

West In·di·an /ˌ· ˈ···/ *adj* of or from the West Indies: *West Indian cooking*

West In·dies /ˌwest ˈɪndiz/ [*the* + P] the islands lying between SE North America and N South America including the Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Dominica, etc.

West·ing·house /ˈwestɪŋhaʊs/ an American company that makes many different products, esp. connected with electronics and lighting

West·land Af·fair /ˈwestlənd əˌfeəʳ/ [*the*] a disagreement in 1986 among members of the British government about the sale of a company called Westland, which made HELICOPTERS, to non-British owners, and also about secret government information being made public. Michael Heseltine, an important minister, left the government over this affair.

West Lo·thi·an /ˌ· ˈ···/ a former COUNTY in central Scotland, now part of Lothian REGION

West Mid·lands /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the* +P] a former METROPOLITAN COUNTY in central England

West·min·ster /ˈwestmɪnstəʳ, westˈmɪnstəʳ◂/ **1** the main part of central London containing Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and other important historic buildings **2** the HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT: *There's concern at Westminster about the closure of…*

Westminster Ab·bey /ˌ··· ˈ··/ a very large GOTHIC church in Westminster, London. Almost all English kings and queens since William I have been crowned (CROWN) in the Abbey and many famous people are buried there –see colour map on page 817

Westminster Abbey



Westminster School /ˌ··· ˈ·/ a PUBLIC school in London

West·mor·land /ˈwestmələnd‖-mɔːr-/ a former COUNTY of NW England, now part of Cumbria

West Point /ˌ· ˈ·/ a US military post on the Hudson River, N of New York City, where the **United States Military Academy** is based –compare SANDHURST

West Ri·ding /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] a former COUNTY of central N England, now mainly contained in the present county of West Yorkshire

West Side Sto·ry /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a musical play, also made into a film, about life in the streets of New York by Leonard Bernstein

West Sus·sex /ˌ· ˈ··/ a COUNTY in S England

West Vir·gin·i·a /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *written abbrev.* **WV** a mountainous state of the US in the E central part of the country –see colour map on pages 1374–5

west·ward /ˈwestwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* going towards the west: *a westward journey | in a westward direction*

west·wards /ˈwestwədz‖-wərdz/ also **westward**– *adv* towards the west: *We sailed westwards.* –see also WEST³

West York·shire /ˌ· ˈ··/ a COUNTY in NE England

wet¹ /wet/ *adj* **1** covered with liquid or in a liquid state; not dry: *I can't go out until my hair's dry; it's still wet from being washed. | wet ground | wet paint* (=which has not yet dried) *| I went out in the rain and got* **wet through.** (=extremely wet) **2** rainy: *wet weather | a wet day | We can't go out, it's too wet.* **3** *BrE infml derog* (of a person) lacking strength of character and unwilling to take firm or forceful action; weak: *Don't be so wet! Just tell them you refuse to do it.* **4 (still) wet behind the ears** *infml* very young and without experience **– ~ly** *adv* **– ~ness** *n* [U]

wet² *n* **1** [*the*+S] rainy weather: *What a horrible day! It's good to get in out of the wet.* **2** [*the*+S] wet ground, esp. after rain: *Come and walk on the dry road, instead of going through the wet.* **3** [C] *BrE infml* a politically MODERATE¹ (3) person in the British Conservative Party: *a leading wet*

wet³ *v* **wet** *or* **wetted** [T] **1** to make wet: *Wet your finger and hold it up; the side that dries is the side the wind's blowing from.* **2** to make (oneself, one's bed, or one's clothes) wet by passing water from the body uncontrollably **3 wet one's whistle** *humor* to have a drink, esp. of alcohol, when one is thirsty

▷ USAGE In British English the past tense and past participle are usually **wetted** except in phrases like **wet the bed** or **wet oneself**: *Billy's* **wet the bed** *again!*◁

wet·back /ˈwetbæk/ *n derog, AmE sl* a person from Mexico who is in the US illegally (considered offensive). The name comes from the fact that many Mexicans cross the Rio Grande River between the two countries in order to avoid IMMIGRATION officials at the border –see also ILLEGAL ALIEN

wet blan·ket /ˌ· ˈ··‖ˈ· ˌ··/ *n infml derog* a person who discourages others or prevents them from enjoying themselves: *Can't we stay a bit longer? Don't be such a wet blanket!*

wet dream /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a sexually exciting dream resulting in a male ORGASM

wet-look /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] (esp. of a garment) having a shiny surface, as if wet: *a wet-look leather coat*

wet nurse /ˈ· ·/ *n* a woman employed to give breast milk to another woman's baby

wet-nurse *v* [T] **1** to act as a wet nurse to **2** *derog* to treat with too much care; MOLLYCODDLE

wet suit /ˈ· ·/ *n* a usu. rubber garment worn by underwater swimmers, surfers (SURF²), etc., which allows some water to go through, but keeps them warm by fitting close to the body

wet·ting /ˈwetɪŋ/ *n infml* being wetted unpleasantly by rain, sea, etc.: *She got a real wetting when she fell in the harbour.*

wetting a·gent /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a chemical substance which, when spread on a solid surface, makes it hold liquid

wetting so·lu·tion /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] a liquid which is put on CONTACT LENSES

we've /wiv; *strong* wiːv/ *short for:* we have

Wex·ford /ˈweksfəd‖-fərd/ a COUNTY in the SE Republic of Ireland, with a county town of the same name

whack¹ /wæk/ *v* [T] *infml* to hit with a noisy blow

whack² *n infml* **1** (the noise made by) a hard blow **2** [*usu. sing.*] *BrE* a (fair or equal) share: *Have you all had your whack?* –see also **top whack** (TOP¹) **3** [*usu. sing.*] *BrE* a try; attempt: *If you can't open it, let me* **have a whack at** *it.*

whacked /wækt/ also **whacked out** /ˌ· ˈ·/– *adj* [F] *BrE infml* very tired: *I'm completely whacked.*

whack·ing¹ /ˈwækɪŋ/ *adj, adv infml* very (big): *a whacking (great) orange*

whacking² *n infml, esp. BrE* a beating

whack·y /ˈwæki/ *adj* WACKY

whale /weɪl/ *n* **1** an extremely large animal which lives in the sea and looks like a fish but is a MAMMAL. So many whales have been killed that they are in danger of dying out. People who are concerned about the environment sometimes wear BADGES which say "Save the Whales": *The blue whale is the world's largest living animal.* **2 a whale of a time** *infml* a very enjoyable time: *We had a whale of a time at the party.*

whale·bone /ˈweɪlbəʊn/ *n* [U] a material taken from the upper jaw of whales, used in former times for keeping things stiff and in their proper shape: *a whalebone corset*

whal·er /ˈweɪləʳ/ *n* **1** someone who hunts whales at sea **2** a ship or boat from which whales are hunted

whal·ing /ˈweɪlɪŋ/ *n* [U] the business of hunting whales and treating them in order to obtain oil and other materials

wham /wæm/ *n infml* (the sound made by) a hard, heavy blow

wharf /wɔːf‖wɔːrf/ *n* **wharfs** *or* **wharves** /wɔːvz‖wɔːrvz/ a place, usu. like a wide stone wall built on the edge of the sea or river, where ships can be tied up to unload goods

what[1] /wɒt‖wɑːt, wʌt/ *predeterminer, determiner, pron* **1 a** (used in questions about an unknown thing or person, or kind of thing or person): *What are you doing? | What colour is it? | What time will you arrive? | "What do you do?" "I'm a teacher." | What's your new boss like?* (=give me a description of him/her) **b** (used in asking someone to repeat or explain something they have said): *"I got up at 4 o'clock this morning." "What?|What did you say?|*(shows surprise) *You did what?"* **2** the thing or things that: *I believed what he told me. | She told me what to do. | He pointed to what looked like a tree. | Show me what you bought. | I gave them what books I've had.* (=the books I had, although I did not have many) (not *what book I had*) *| We're very grateful for what you did. | The President is determined to resist what he regards as blackmail by the terrorists. | What worries me is how we're going to pay for all this.* **3** (shows surprise, pleasure, annoyance, or other strong feeling): *What a strange thing to say! | What a pity!* (compare *How sad!*) *| What beautiful weather! | What a fool that man is!* **4** *infml* (used to introduce a suggestion or a piece of information) something: *I'll tell you what – let's go swimming. | Guess what! Jane's getting married.* **5 what** (. . .) **for?** *infml* **a** why?: *"I'm going to Paris." "What for?"* **b** for which purpose?: *What's this thing for?* (=tell me its purpose) **6 what have you** *infml* anything (else) like that: *The abandoned office was full of documents, books, and what have you.* **7 what if ?** (esp. in making suggestions) what will happen if ?: *What if we move the picture over here? Do you think it'll look better?* **8 what it takes** the qualities necessary to be successful: *Do you think she's got what it takes?* **9 what 'of it?** why should I care? why is that important? **10 what's his/her/their/its name** also **what d'you call him/her/them/it**– *infml* (used when speaking about a person or thing whose name one cannot remember): *Mary's gone out with what's his name – you know, the boy with the red car.* –compare WHATCHAMACALLIT **11 what's more** and this is more important: *The new system is cheaper, and what's more, it's better.* **12 what's what** *infml* the true state of things: *You can't fool him; he* **knows what's what**. **13 what the** ... **?** (used with various words, such as **hell, devil, blazes,** etc. when asking angry or surprised questions) what: *What the hell do you want? | What the devil did they do that for?* –see also **what about** (ABOUT[1]); see HOW (USAGE), WHICH (USAGE)

what[2] *adv* **1** (used esp. in questions when no answer is expected) in what way; to what degree: *What do you care about it?* (=I don't think you care at all) *| We may be a little late, but what does it matter?* **2 what with** (used for introducing the cause of something, esp. something bad): *What with all this work and so little sleep at nights, I don't think I can go on much longer.*

what·cha·ma·call·it /ˈwɒtʃəməkɔːlɪt ‖ ˈwɑːt-, ˈwʌt-/ *n infml* (used when speaking about a thing whose name one cannot remember): *I broke the whatchamacallit off the car door. | Pass me that whatchamacallit–there.* –see also DOODAH, DOOHICKEY, THINGAMAJIG; compare **what's his/her/their/its name** (WHAT[1] (10))

what·ev·er[1] /wɒtˈevəʳ‖wɑːt-, wʌt-/ also **what·so·ev·er** /ˌwɒtsəʊˈevəʳ‖ˌwɑːt-, ˌwʌt-/ *fml or lit– determiner, pron* **1** any(thing) at all that: *Goats eat whatever (food) they can find.* **2** no matter what; without considering what: *Whatever I suggest, he always disagrees. | Don't keep him waiting* **whatever you do.** (=it is very important that you don't keep him waiting) *| She refuses, for whatever reason.* (=the reason why is not important) *| The building must be saved, whatever the cost.*

whatever[2] *pron* **1** *infml* anything (else) like that: *Anyone seen carrying bags, boxes, or whatever, was stopped by the police.* **2** (shows surprise) what: *Look at that strange animal! Whatever is it? | Joe's getting married? Whatever next!* **3** *infml* (used when replying to an offer or suggestion, esp. to show a lack of interest): *"Shall I call you tonight or tomorrow?" "Whatever."* (=I don't care which)

whatever[3] also **what·so·ev·er** /ˌwɒtsəʊˈevəʳ‖ˌwɑːt-, ˌwʌt-/– *adj* [after *n*; *in questions or negatives*] at all: *I have no money whatever.*

what for /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *infml, esp. BrE* punishment: *If she finds out what you've done she'll* **give you what for**!

what·not /ˈwɒtnɒt‖ˈwɑːtnɑːt, ˈwʌt-/ *n* **1** [U] *infml* anything (else): *carrying his bags and whatnot* **2** [C] a piece of furniture with open shelves, used, esp. in Victorian times, for showing small decorations

whats·it /ˈwɒtsɨt‖ˈwɑːts-, ˈwʌts-/ *n infml* a small object, such as a small piece of machinery, whose proper name one cannot remember: *I can't unfasten the whatsit; will you try?*

What's On /ˌ· ˈ·/ any of several magazines produced in different towns and cities, which gives details of entertainment and similar events for the current week or month

wheat /wiːt/ *n* [U] **1** a plant from whose grain flour is made: *a field of wheat* **2** the grain from this plant: *This bread is made from wheat.* –see picture at CEREAL **3 (to separate) the wheat from the chaff** (to separate) the good or important parts from the bad or worthless parts

wheat germ /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] the centre of the wheat grain, containing much of the goodness and food value

Wheat·ies /ˈwiːtiːz/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a breakfast CEREAL (2) made of WHEAT

►CULTURAL NOTE Wheaties advertises by using images of healthy and strong people playing sports. People sometimes make jokes about people being strong or not strong enough by saying that they did or did not eat their Wheaties.◄

wheat·meal /ˈwiːtmiːl/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* a flour made from esp. whole grains of wheat. Wheatmeal bread is brown bread but may contain white flour as well as whole wheat flour –**wheatmeal** *adj* [A] *: wheatmeal bread*

whee /wiː/ *interj* (used to express joy, esp. to children, and often when moving quickly, for example when riding on a swing)

whee·dle /ˈwiːdl/ *v* [I;T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *derog* to (try to) persuade (someone) by pleasant but insincere behaviour and words: *She wheedled him into taking her with him.*

wheedle sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**of**)] to obtain from someone by insincerely pleasant persuading: *I wheedled a promise|the information out of her.*

wheel[1] /wiːl/ *n* **1** [C] a circular object with an outer frame which turns round an inner part to which it is joined (the HUB), and is used for turning machinery, making vehicles move, etc.: *Most cars have four wheels, but this one has only three.* **2** [*the*+S] the STEERING WHEEL of a car or the wheel used to guide a ship: *I'm rather tired; will you* **take the wheel**? (=drive instead of me) *| My sister was* **at the wheel.** (=was driving) **3** [C] a movement by which a group of marching soldiers turns quickly to the left or right: *Platoon, right wheel!* **4 the wheel is come full circle** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *King Lear*, sometimes used when a number of connected events have ended in the same way that they began, esp. regarding a particular person's fortune (FORTUNE (3)) **5 wheels within wheels** facts or reasons which influence people's behaviour but which are hidden or only partly known or understood **6 -wheeler** /wiːləʳ/ a vehicle or other moving object with the stated number or type of wheels: *His car is a three-wheeler.* –see also WHEELS, **oil the wheels** (OIL[2]), **put one's shoulder to the wheel** (SHOULDER[1]), **put a spoke in someone's wheel** (SPOKE[2])

wheel[2] *v* **1** [T] to move (a wheeled object), esp. by pushing it with the hands: *The nurse wheeled the trolley up to the bed.* **2** [I (ROUND, AROUND, ABOUT)] to turn or change direction suddenly: *She wheeled round to face her accusers.* **3** [I] (of birds) to fly round and round in circles: *The vultures were wheeling overhead.* **4 wheel and deal** [I] *infml, often derog* to make deals, esp. in business or politics, in a skilful and perhaps dishonest way –see also WHEELER-DEALER

wheel sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml, esp. BrE* to produce in order to gain a desired result, esp. in a

dishonest or insincere way: *To back up these claims, they wheeled out their familiar arguments.*

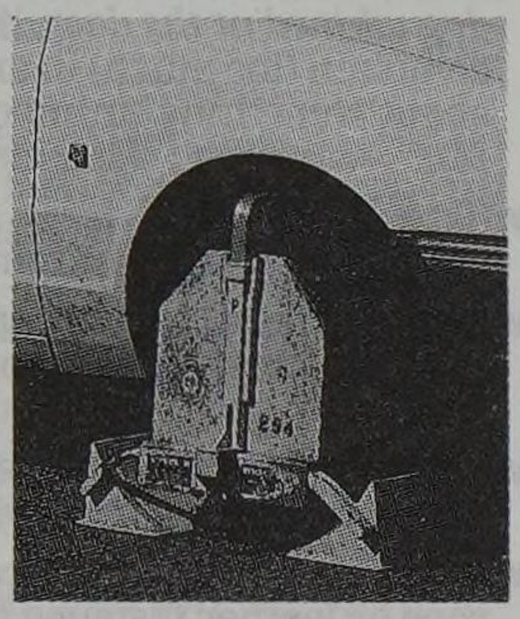
wheel·bar·row /ˈwiːlˌbærəʊ‖-rəʊ, -rə/ also **barrow**– *n* a small cart with one wheel at the front, two legs, and two handles at the back for pushing: *The gardener put the dead plants in his wheelbarrow.*

wheel·base /ˈwiːlbeɪs/ *n* the distance between the front and back AXLE on a vehicle: *This truck is the long-wheelbase model.*

wheel·chair /ˈwiːltʃeəʳ/ *n* a chair with large wheels which can be turned by the user, used esp. by people who are unable to walk: *The injured pilot spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair.* –compare BATH CHAIR, and see picture at CHAIR

wheel clamp /ˈ· ·/ ‖**Denver boot** *AmE infml*– *n* a metal apparatus which the police fasten to a car's wheel if it is parked in the wrong place. The owner of the car must pay a lot of money to have it removed –see also YELLOW LINE –**wheel-clamp** *v* [I;T] : *I've just been wheel-clamped!*

wheel clamp



wheeled /wiːld/ *adj* (*often in comb.*) having wheels: *wheeled vehicles | a two-wheeled cart*

wheeler-deal·er /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n infml often derog* someone who is skilled at making profitable or successful deals, esp. in business or politics –see also **wheel and deal** (WHEEL²) –**-ing** *n* [U]

wheel·house /ˈwiːlhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ the place on a ship where the captain stands at the WHEEL¹ (2)

wheel·ie /ˈwiːli/ *n infml* an act of balancing a cycle on its back wheel while riding it

wheelie bin /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a large RUBBISH BIN on wheels

wheels /wiːlz/ *n* [P] *sl* a car or similar vehicle: *Are these your new wheels, man?*

wheel·wright /ˈwiːlraɪt/ *n* (esp. in former times) a person who makes and repairs wheels, esp. the wooden wheels for horse-drawn carts

wheeze¹ /wiːz/ *v* [I] to make a rough whistling sound because of difficulty in breathing: *By the time he reached the top of the stairs he was panting and wheezing.* | (fig.) *The old engine wheezed up the slope.*

wheeze² *n* **1** an act or sound of wheezing **2** *BrE infml* a clever and amusing trick or idea

wheez·y /ˈwiːzi/ *adj* that wheezes, esp. habitually: *a wheezy chest* **-ily** *adv* **-iness** *n* [U]

whelk /welk/ *n* a sea animal which lives in a shell, and is sometimes used as food

whelp /welp/ *n* a young animal, esp. a dog or wild animal of the dog or cat family

when¹ /wen/ *adv, conj* **1** at what time; at the time that: *When will they come? | Do you know when they're coming? | She'll tell us when to open it. | I jumped up when she called. | Things were different when I was a child. | Fire the rockets when I give the signal. | When completed, the new railway will run for 250 miles.* **2** considering that: *Why do you want a new job when you've got such a good one already?* **3** even though; in spite of the fact that: *They kept trying when they must have known it was hopeless.*

when² *pron* **1** (in questions) what time: **Since when** *has he had a beard?* **2** which time: *next May, by when the new house should be finished*

whence /wens/ *adv, pron old use* (from) where: *Whence came this man? | They returned to the land (from) whence they came.* –compare WHITHER

▷ USAGE Some people think that **from whence** is bad English, and that **whence** is better alone.◁

when·ev·er /wenˈevəʳ/ *adv, conj* **1** at whatever time: *Whenever I come here it rains! | Come whenever you like. | I'd like to see you whenever (it's) convenient.* **2** (shows surprise) when: *Whenever did you find time to do all that?*

where /weəʳ/ *adv, conj* at, to, or from what/which place, position, or situation; at or to the place that: *Where do you live? | Where are you going? | I asked her where she was going. | Where did you get that book (from)? | Where will all this trouble lead?* (=what result will it have?) | *This is the building where I work. | I told him where to put it. | Sit where you like. | The crisis has reached a point where the receiver will have to be called in. | Where possible* (=whenever it is possible), *we use fresh local ingredients.*

where·a·bouts¹ /ˌweərəˈbaʊts◂‖ˈweərəbaʊts/ *adv* (used in questions when an exact answer is not expected) where; in or to what place: *Whereabouts did I leave my bag? | Whereabouts in Scotland do they live?*

where·a·bouts² /ˈweərəbaʊts/ *n* [U+*sing.*/*pl. v*] *fml* the place where a person or thing is: *The escaped prisoner's whereabouts is/are still unknown.*

where·as /weərˈæz/ *conj* **1** (used to show an opposite or different fact, situation, etc.) but: *They want a house, whereas we would rather live in a flat. | Whereas we want a flat, they would rather live in a house.* **2** *law* (used at the beginning of a sentence, esp. in official papers) since; because of the fact that

where·at /weərˈæt/ *adv, conj old use* **1** WHEREUPON **2** at which; where

where·by /weəˈbaɪ‖weər-/ *adv fml* **1** by means of which: *a system whereby we can calculate future costs* **2** according to which: *a law whereby all children are to receive cheap milk*

where·fore /ˈweəfɔːʳ‖ˈweər-/ *adv, conj old use* **1** why: *Wherefore comest thou?* **2** for that reason; therefore

where·fores /ˈweəfɔːz‖ˈweərfɔːrz/ *n* see WHY³

where·in /weərˈɪn/ *adv, conj fml or old use* in what; in which: *Wherein lies the difficulty? | the grave wherein he lies*

where·of /weərˈɒv‖weərˈʌv, -ˈɑːv/ *adv, conj fml or old use* of what; of which

where·on /weərˈɒn‖weərˈɔːn, -ˈɑːn/ *adv, conj fml or old use* **1** on which: *the table whereon lay the food* **2** whereupon

where·so·ever /ˌweəsəʊˈevəʳ‖ˈweərsəʊˌevər/ *conj, adv lit for* WHEREVER (1)

where·to /weəˈtuː‖weər-/ also **where·un·to** /weərˈʌntʊ, ˌweərʌnˈtuː‖weərˈʌntuː/ *old use*– *adv, conj fml or old use* to what place; to which

where·u·pon /ˌweərəˈpɒn‖ˈweərəpɑːn, -pɔːn/ *conj* at once or soon after and because of which; at which point; as a result of which: *One of the men insulted another, whereupon a fight broke out.*

wher·ev·er /weərˈevəʳ/ *adv* **1** to or at whatever place, position, or situation: *Wherever you go, I go too. | Sleep wherever you like. | Wherever possible* (=whenever it is possible) *the jobs are given to local people.* **2** (shows surprise) where: *Wherever did you get that idea?*

where·with·al /ˈweəwɪðɔːl‖ˈweər-/ *n* [*the*+S] *sometimes humor* the necessary means, esp. money: *I'd like a new car but I lack the wherewithal (to pay for it).*

whet /wet/ *v* **-tt-** [T] **1** *fml or lit* to sharpen: *He whetted his knife on the stone.* **2 whet someone's appetite** (of a taste or short experience) to make someone wish for more: *Going to France for the day has whetted her appetite.*

wheth·er /ˈweðəʳ/ *conj* **1** if ... or not: *He asked me whether she was coming. | I couldn't decide whether to do it. | It was uncertain whether she would recover. | The decision whether to see her was mine alone. | I worry about whether I hurt her feelings. | I wonder whether or not we should tell her. | I wonder whether we should tell her or not.* **2 a** no matter if ... (or) ... : *I will go, whether you come with me or stay at home.* **b** (used to introduce two or more possibilities) I don't know if: *I'm sure we'll see each other again soon, whether here or in New York.* | **Whether by accident or design** (=through luck or on purpose) *they met.*

▷ USAGE **If** can be used instead of **whether** in meaning **1.** But we must use **whether** (not **if**), **a** before infinitives: *The question is* **whether** *to go or stay,* **b** after prepositions: *It depends on* **whether** *he's ready or not,* **c** after nouns: *It's your decision* **whether** *you go or stay,* **d** with *or not* in sentences like this: *I asked him* **whether** *or not he was coming.* –see also IF (USAGE)◁

whet·stone /ˈwetstəʊn/ *n* a stone used for sharpening cutting tools

whew /hju:/ *interj* PHEW

whey /weɪ/ *n* [U] the watery part of sour milk after the solid part has been removed —compare CURD

which[1] /wɪtʃ/ *determiner, pron* **1** (used in questions, when a choice is to be made) what particular one or ones: *Which shoes shall I wear, the red ones or the brown ones?* | *Which of these books is yours?* | *Ask him which (one) he wants.* (not *Ask him which does he want.*) | *She comes from either Los Angeles or San Francisco, I can't remember which.* **2** (shows what thing or things is/are meant): *Did you see the letter which/that came today?* | *This is the book which/that I told you about.* **3** (used esp. in written language, after a COMMA, to add more information to a sentence) **a** (about a thing or things): *The train, which takes only two hours to get there, is quicker than the bus, which takes three.* **b** (about the first part of the sentence): *She said she'd been waiting for an hour, which was true.* (=and this was true) | *The police arrived, after which* (=and after this) *the situation became calmer.* | *She may have missed her train,* **in which case** (=if this is true) *she won't arrive for another hour.* **4 which is which?** what is the difference between the two: *The twins look so alike that I can't tell which is which.*

▷ USAGE Compare **which** and **what**. 1 **Which** is used when a choice is to be made from a known set of things or people: **Which** *colour do you want, red or blue?* | **Which** *member of the family got most money when the old man died?* **What** is used when the choice is from an unknown set: **What** *colour was it?* | **What** *are you eating?* 2 **Which** can be followed by *of*, but **what** cannot: **Which** *of the girls/books do you like best?* —see also THAT (USAGE)◁

Which? a British magazine which tests and reports on all the different kinds of a particular product in order to help people decide which one to buy —compare CONSUMER REPORTS

which·ev·er /wɪtʃˈevəʳ/ *determiner, pron* **1** any (one) of the set that: *Take whichever seat you like.* | *Choose whichever of them you like best.* **2** no matter which: *It has the same result, whichever way you do it.*

whick·er /ˈwɪkəʳ/ *v* [I] to NEIGH (=make the sound which horses make) gently —**whicker** *n*

Whicker, Al·an /ˈælən/ (1925–) a British broadcaster best known for his unusual travel programmes, esp. the *Whicker's World* documentaries (DOCUMENTARY[2]) made and repeated over more than 30 years

whiff /wɪf/ *n* **1** [S (**of**)] a short-lasting smell or movement of air: *Something good must be cooking; I got/caught a whiff of it through the window.* | (fig.) *a whiff of scandal* **2** [C (**of**); *usu. pl.*] an act of breathing in (air, smoke, etc.)

whif·fy /ˈwɪfi/ *adj BrE infml* having a bad smell; smelly: *The dog is a bit whiffy.*

Whig /wɪg/ *n, adj* (a member) of a British political party of the 18th and early 19th centuries which supported the power of Parliament and wanted to limit royal power, and later became the Liberal Party

while[1] /waɪl/ *n* [S] a period of time, esp. a short one: *Just wait (for) a while and then I'll help you.* | *She's been gone* **quite a while.** (=a fairly long time) | *He telephoned a little while ago.* | *We thought he was at work when* **all the while** *he'd been at the cricket match.* —see also **once in a while** (ONCE[1]), **worth one's while** (WORTH[1])

while[2] also **whilst** /waɪlst/ *esp. BrE— conj* **1** during the time that: *They arrived while we were having dinner.* | *While she read the paper, I cleaned up the kitchen.* | *He got malaria while travelling in Africa.* | *They got married while still at the university.* **2** although: *While I understand what you say, I can't agree with you.* **3** but; WHEREAS: *Their country has plenty of oil, while ours has none.*

while[3] *v*

while sthg. ↔ **away** also **wile** sthg. ↔ **away**— *phr v* [T] to pass (time) in a fairly interesting or pleasantly lazy way: *He whiled away the hours of waiting by reading a book.*

While shep·herds watched their flocks by night /ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ/ a well-known HYMN (=religious song) which is sung at Christmas

whim /wɪm/ *n* a sudden idea or wish, often one that is not reasonable or sensible: *Government policy changes at the president's whim/at the whim of the president.* [+*to-v*] *a sudden whim to buy a cream cake* | *I bought it* **on a whim.** | *Her grandparents* **indulged her every whim.** (=allowed her to have or do whatever she wanted)

whim·per /ˈwɪmpəʳ/ *v* **1** [I] (esp. of a frightened animal or person) to make small weak cries: *The little dog whimpered when I tried to bathe its wounds.* **2** [I;T] to speak or say in a weak trembling voice as if about to cry: *"Don't hurt me!" he whimpered.* —**whimper** *n*

whim·si·cal /ˈwɪmzɪkəl/ *adj* amusingly strange; with strange ideas: *a whimsical poem/smile* — ~**ly** /ˈwɪmzɪkli/ *adv* — ~**ity** /ˌwɪmzɪˈkælɪti/ *n* [C;U]

whim·sy /ˈwɪmzi/ *n* **1** [U] a tendency to think or behave strangely, esp. making odd things seem humorous **2** [C] a strange act or idea

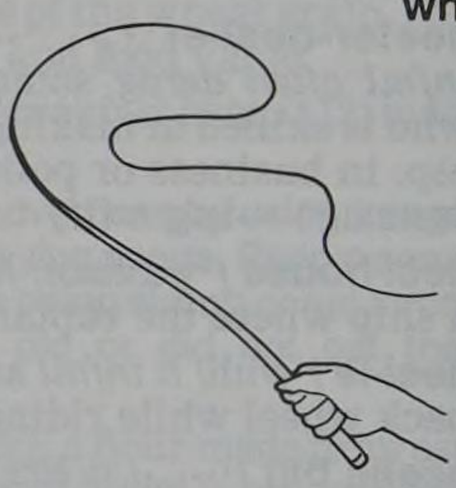
whine /waɪn/ *v* [I] **1** to make a long high sad sound: *The dog whined at the door, asking to be let out.* **2** *derog* to complain (too much) in an unnecessarily sad voice, usu. about something unimportant: *I wish you'd stop whining!* —**whine** *n* : *the whine of the aircraft's jet engines*

whin·er /ˈwaɪnəʳ/ *n derog* a person who complains. esp. habitually and in an unnecessarily sad voice

whinge, winge— /wɪndʒ/ *v* [I] *infml derog, esp. AustrE & BrE* to complain, esp. continually and in an annoying way

whin·ny /ˈwɪni/ *v* [I] to NEIGH (=make the sound which horses make) gently —**whinny** *n*

whip[1] /wɪp/ *n* **1** a long piece of rope or leather fastened to a handle, used esp. for driving animals or punishing people: *He cracked his whip and the horses began to trot.* **2** (in the British system of government) **a** a member of Parliament who is responsible for making other members of his or her party attend at voting time **b** an order given to members of Parliament to attend and vote —see also THREE-LINE WHIP **3** (in the American system of government) a member of Congress who is elected by his or her party to help the FLOOR LEADER and who helps persuade other members of his or her party to support bills that are important to the party **4** a sweet food made of beaten eggs and other foods (esp. fruit) whipped together



whip

whip[2] *v* **-pp-** **1** [T] to beat with a whip **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to move quickly or suddenly: *The wind whipped* (=blew fiercely) *across the plain.* | *He whipped out his gun.* | *She whipped off her shoes.* | *I'm just going to whip across the road to the bank.* **3** [T (UP)] to beat (esp. cream or the white part of an egg) until stiff: *whipped cream* —see also WHISK[2] (3), BEAT[1] (2) **4** [T] *infml* to defeat completely; beat: *Their team really whipped ours at basketball.* **5** [T] *BrE infml* to steal: *Someone's whipped my pen!* **6** [T] to cause (a TOP[4]) to spin by means of a piece of string fixed to a stick **7 whip someone/something into shape** *infml* to bring into the desired state by firm and forceful action: *The new coach soon whipped the team into shape.*

whip sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause (feelings) to appear, become stronger, etc.: *She tried to whip up some interest in the idea.* **2** to make or produce quickly or in a hurry: *It's not much of a meal; I just whipped it up in a few minutes.*

whip·cord /ˈwɪpkɔːd‖-kɔːrd/ *n* [U] **1** a strong type of cord **2** a strong woollen material

whip hand /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*the*+S] a position of power and advantage: *Don't let them do whatever they want; make sure you keep the whip hand.*

whip·lash /ˈwɪp-læʃ/ *n* **1** [C] the blow (LASH) from a whip **2** [C;U] also **whiplash in·ju·ry** /ˌ·· ˈ···/— harm done to the body by the sudden violent movement of the head and neck, such as may happen in a car accident

whip·per·snap·per /ˈwɪpəˌsnæpəʳ‖ˈwɪpər-/ *n old-fash infml* a usu. young or small person who behaves in a too confident or important way: *Don't talk to me like that, you young whippersnapper!*

whip·pet /ˈwɪpɫt/ *n* a small thin racing dog like a GREYHOUND

whip·ping /ˈwɪpɪŋ/ *n* a beating, esp. as a punishment

whipping boy /ˈ·· ·/ *n* someone who gets most of the blame and/or punishment for other people's mistakes or wrongdoing —compare SCAPEGOAT

whipping cream /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] a type of cream which can be beaten until stiff

whip·poor·will /ˈwɪpʊəˌwɪl‖ˈwɪpər-/ *n* a small North American bird with a cry like its name

whip·py /ˈwɪpi/ *adj* (of a rod, stem, etc.) which bends or springs back easily

whip-round /ˈ· ·/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a collection of money among a group of people, for example in a place of work, to give to one member: *We're having a whip-round for old Fred, who's leaving the firm.*

Whip·snade /ˈwɪpsneɪd/ an open-air ZOO in Bedfordshire, England, where the animals are given a lot of freedom, and kept in natural surroundings

whir /wɜːr/ see WHIRR

whirl[1] /wɜːl‖wɜːrl/ *v* **1** [I;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to (cause to) move round and round very fast: *The dancers whirled around the floor.* | *The letter was picked up by the wind and whirled into the air.* | (fig.) *After meeting so many new people, my head was whirling.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to (cause to) move away in a hurry: *The car whirled them off to the wedding.*

whirl[2] *n* **1** [S] the act or sensation of whirling : (fig.) *My head's* **in a whirl** (=my mind is confused); *I must sit down and think.* **2** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] very fast movement or activity, esp. of a rather confused sort: *a whirl of activity* | *the frenzied social whirl at Christmas time* **3 give something a whirl** *infml* to try something, even though one is not sure that it will be successful, enjoyable, etc.: *It's an interesting suggestion and I think we ought to give it a whirl.*

whir·li·gig /ˈwɜːlɪˌgɪg‖ˈwɜːr-/ *n* **1** a toy which spins; spinning TOP **2** a ROUNDABOUT[1] (2)

whirl·pool /ˈwɜːlpuːl‖ˈwɜːrl-/ *n* a place with circular currents of water in a sea or river, which can pull objects down into it

whirl·wind[1] /ˈwɜːlˌwɪnd‖ˈwɜːrl-/ also **tornado**‖also **twister** *AmE infml*– *n* a tall pipe-shaped body of air moving forward while whirling at high speed: *The school was seriously damaged by a whirlwind.* —see STORM (USAGE)

whirlwind[2] *adj* happening very quickly or suddenly: *a whirlwind romance* | *a whirlwind tour*

whirl·y·bird /ˈwɜːliˌbɜːd‖ˈwɜːrliˌbɜːrd/ *n sl for* HELICOPTER

whirr ‖ also **whir** *esp. AmE* /wɜːr/ *v* **-rr-** [I] to make a regular sound like something turning and beating against the air: *the whirring sound of the helicopter blades* —**whirr, whir** *n* : *the whirr of the sewing machine*

whisk[1] /wɪsk/ *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] a quick light sweeping movement: *The cow brushed away the flies with a whisk of its tail.* **2** a small brush consisting of a bunch of feathers, hair, etc., tied to a handle, esp. a FLYWHISK **3** a small hand-held apparatus for beating eggs, whipping cream, etc.

whisk[2] *v* [T] **1** to move or remove with a quick sweeping movement: *The horse whisked its tail*/*whisked away the flies with its tail.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to move or remove quickly or by taking suddenly: *She whisked the cups away.* | *The President was whisked off to the airport in his limousine.* **3** to beat (esp. eggs), esp. with a WHISK[1] (3)

Whis·kas /ˈwɪskəz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of cat food sold in Britain

whisk broom /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a small hand-held brush usu. made from BROOM (2), used for brushing clothes or sweeping dust into a DUSTPAN

whis·ker /ˈwɪskəʳ/ *n* **1** any of the long stiff hairs that grow near the mouth of a cat, rat, etc. —see also WHISKERS **2 by a whisker** *infml, esp. BrE* by a very small amount; only just: *He won the race by a whisker.*

whis·kered /ˈwɪskəd‖-ərd/ *adj* having whiskers

whis·kers /ˈwɪskəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] hair growing on the sides of a man's face or on his chin —**kery** *adj*

whis·key /ˈwɪski/ *n* [U] whisky made in Ireland or the US

whis·ky /ˈwɪski/ *BrE* ‖ **whiskey** *AmE*– *n* **1** [U] a SPIRIT (=strong alcoholic drink) made from malted (MALT) grain, such as BARLEY, produced esp. in Scotland **2** [C] a glass of whisky

whis·per[1] /ˈwɪspəʳ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to speak or say very quietly, so that only a person close by can hear: *The children were whispering in the corner.* | *She whispered a warning to me and then disappeared.* | *"Listen!" she whispered.* **2** [I] (of the wind, leaves, etc.) to make a soft sound: *The wind was whispering in the roof.* **3** [T *often pass.*] to suggest (something) or pass (information) secretly: [+*that*] *It's whispered that he may resign.* —~**er** *n*

whisper[2] *n* **1** speech produced by whispering: *She said it* **in a whisper**, *so I couldn't hear.* **2** [*usu. sing.*] a soft windy sound: *the whisper of the wind in the roof* **3** *infml* a piece of information passed secretly from one person to another; RUMOUR: [+(*that*)] *I've heard a whisper that he's going to resign.* —see also STAGE WHISPER

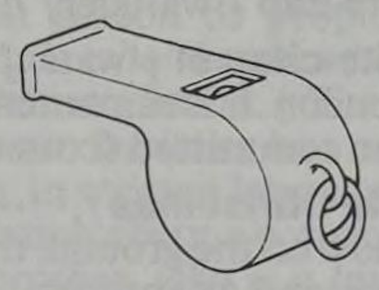
whispering cam·paign /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ *n* an attack made against someone's position or good name by passing on unfavourable information about him/her (which may or may not be true) from one person to another —compare SMEAR CAMPAIGN

whist /wɪst/ *n* [U] a card game for four players in two pairs, in which each pair tries to win the largest number of TRICKS —compare BRIDGE[3]

whist drive /ˈ· ·/ *n* a meeting to play whist between several pairs of partners who change opponents

whis·tle[1] /ˈwɪsəl/ *n* **1** a simple (musical) instrument for making a high sound by forcing air or steam through it **2** a high sound made by forcing air or steam through a whistle, through the lips, or through a bird's beak: *He gave a loud whistle of surprise.* —see also WOLF WHISTLE, **blow the whistle on** (BLOW[1]), **wet one's whistle** (WET[3])

whistle



whistle[2] *v* **1** [I] to make a high clear sound **a** by forcing air through a narrow hole formed by the lips, to make music or as a signal to draw attention: *She whistled to her dog and it came running.* **b** by forcing air or steam through a WHISTLE[1] (1): *The referee whistled and the game began.* | *The old steam train whistled as it approached the station.* **2** [T] to produce (music) by doing this: *He whistled "God save the Queen".* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to move with a whistling sound: *The wind whistled in the chimney.* | *A bullet whistled past my head.* **4 whistle for it** *infml* to ask for something, esp. payment, with no chance of success: *"He wants his £5 back." "He'll have to whistle for it; I've got no money left."* **5 whistle in the dark** to put on a show of courage when one is afraid

whis·tle-blow·er /ˈwɪsəlˌbləʊəʳ/ *n esp. AmE* a person who makes known (secret) information about illegal, immoral, or wrongful practices in an organization, often at some risk to themselves: *whistleblowers in the nuclear energy industry* | *The scandal was brought to light by a whistleblower at the Pentagon.* —see also **blow the whistle on** (BLOW[1] (20)) —**whistleblowing** *n* [U]

Whis·tler /ˈwɪsləʳ/, **James Ab·bot Mc·Neill** /dʒeɪmz ˈæbət məkˈniːl/ (1834–1903) an American painter most famous for a picture known as *Whistler's Mother*

whistle-stop /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE* **1** (a town that is) a REQUEST STOP for a train **2** an appearance, esp. by a politician, on a whistle-stop tour: *The vice president made a whistle-stop in Topeka before continuing his tour of Kansas and Nebraska.*

whistle-stop tour /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* a touring visit, esp. by a politician, with many short stops, esp. in small places

whit /wɪt/ *n* [S *usu. in negatives*] *fml or old use* (by) a small amount: *He cares not a whit for public opinion.*

Whit *n* [C;U] *esp. BrE* WHITSUN: *the Whit weekend*

Whit·ak·er's Al·ma·nack /ˌwɪtəkəz ˈɔːlmənæk‖-kərz ˈɔːl-, ˈæl-/ a yearly book of information about Britain first produced in 1868 by **Joseph Whitaker** (1820–95), a London seller and producer of books

Whit·bread /ˈwɪtbred/ *n tdmk* a make of British beer

white[1] /waɪt/ *adj* **1** of the colour of milk, salt, and snow: *white paint* | *white rice* | *white hair* (=as of a very old person)

►CULTURAL NOTE White is usu. thought of as the colour of purity and VIRGINITY. Babies are dressed in white at CHRISTENINGS and BRIDES usu. wear white dresses at weddings that take place in church. People often wear white in the summer.◄

2 pale in colour: *Her face was white with anger|fear.* | *white wine* **3** [*no comp.*] **a** (of a person) of a pale-skinned race **b** [A] of or for white people: *a white neighbourhood* —compare BLACK[1] (2) **4** [*no comp.*] (of coffee) with milk or cream —opposite **black** **5 white as a sheet** *infml* pale with fear or illness —~**ness** *n* [U]

white[2] *n* **1** [U] the colour which is white: *a bride dressed in white* (=wearing white clothes) **2** [C] a person of a pale-skinned race: *There were both blacks and whites at the meeting.* —see also POOR WHITE **3** [C (**of**)] the white part of the eye **4** [C;U (**of**)] the part of an egg surrounding the YOLK (=yellow part), which is colourless, but white after cooking: *Beat three egg whites until stiff.* —see also WHITES, BLACK AND WHITE

white ant /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a TERMITE

white·bait /ˈwaɪtbeɪt/ *n* [U] very small young fish of several types, eaten as food

white blood cell /ˌ· ˈ· ·/ also **leucocyte** *med,* **white cor·pus·cle** /ˌ· ˈ···, ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* any of the cells in the blood which fight against infection —compare RED BLOOD CELL

white·board /ˈwaɪtbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* a white smooth surface used esp. in classrooms for writing and drawing on with special pens —compare BLACKBOARD

white bread /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] bread made from white flour

white·cap /ˈwaɪtkæp/ *n* a WHITE HORSE

White·chap·el /ˈwaɪtˌtʃæpəl/ an area of the EAST END of London. It is remembered as the area where Jack the Ripper committed (COMMIT) his murders.

white Christ·mas /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a Christmas Day when there is snow on the ground, thought by many people to be attractive and TRADITIONAL. There is a well-known popular song called *White Christmas*, sung by Bing Crosby.

White Cliffs of Do·ver /ˌ· ˌ· · ˈ··/, **The** *n* **1** the first bit of England that can be seen when crossing the English Channel from France: *just 35 minutes from the White Cliffs of Dover* **2** a song sung by Vera Lynn during the Second World War:

There'll be bluebirds over
The white cliffs of Dover
Tomorrow,
Just you wait and see.

white-col·lar /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] of or being people who work in offices or at professional jobs, rather than doing hard or dirty work with their hands: *white-collar workers* | *a white-collar union* —compare BLUE-COLLAR, PINK-COLLAR

white-collar crime /ˈ· ·· ˌ·/ *n* a crime committed (COMMIT) by a person who works in an office or professional job: *Fraud and embezzlement are usu. white-collar crimes.*

whited sep·ul·chre /ˌwaɪtɨd ˈsepəlkəʳ/ *n bibl or humor* someone who gives the appearance of being good, but is evil; HYPOCRITE

white dwarf /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n tech* a hot star, near the end of its life, more solid but less bright than the sun —compare RED GIANT

white el·e·phant /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* something that is useless and unwanted, esp. something that is big and/or costs a lot of money

white elephant sale /ˌ· ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n AmE old-fash for* JUMBLE SALE

white flag /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a sign that one accepts defeat: *They walked towards the enemy waving the white flag to show that they were surrendering.*

white flight /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* large numbers of middle-class white people leaving an area, usu. because (of fears that) black families are coming to live there

white flour /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] wheat flour from which the BRAN and WHEAT GERM have been removed —compare WHOLEMEAL

white goods /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [P] **1** LINEN for the house e.g. sheets, TOWELS, TABLECLOTHS, etc.: *There's a white goods sale on at Greens.* **2** large, usu. white objects for the house e.g. cookers, washing machines, REFRIGERATORS, etc.

White·hall /ˈwaɪthɔːl, ˌwaɪtˈhɔːl/ **1** the street in London in or near which most of the British government offices stand **2** the British government itself, esp. the government departments rather than Parliament or the Prime Minister: *disagreement between Whitehall and Downing Street about how to deal with this matter*

White Hart Lane /ˌ· · ˈ·/ the name of the ground at which the London football team Tottenham Hotspur play

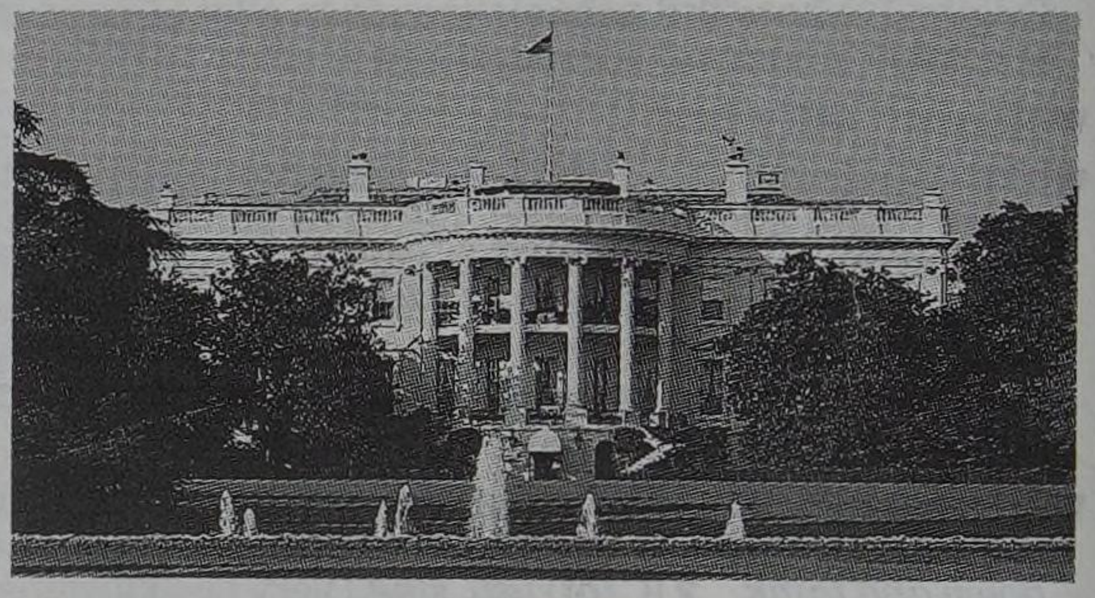
white heat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the very high temperature at which a metal turns white, usu. after being red —see also WHITE-HOT

white hope /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *sometimes humor or derog* the person who is expected to bring great success: *our great white hope for the future* | *the white hope of the Republican Party*

white horse /ˌ· ˈ·/ *BrE*‖also **whitecap**— *n* a wave at sea with a white top

white-hot /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of metal) so hot that it shines white —compare RED-HOT; see also WHITE HEAT

the White House



White House /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] **1** the official Washington, D.C. home of the President of the United States: *Ill-health could force him to make an early departure from the White House.* —see colour map on pages 1374–5 **2** the President and his advisers: *The White House confirmed today that the President will be visiting Britain.*

White·house /ˈwaɪt-haʊs/, **Mary** (1910–) a British woman known for protesting about television programmes, magazines, and plays that have a lot of sex, violence, NUDITY, or bad language in them

white knight /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a person or organization that puts money into a business company to save it from being taken over by another company

white lead /ˌwaɪt ˈled/ *n* [U] a poisonous compound of lead with CARBON and oxygen, formerly used in house paint

white lie /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a harmless lie, e.g. one told so as not to hurt someone else

white light·ning /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *AmE sl* MOONSHINE (2)

white ma·gic /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] magic used for good purposes —compare BLACK MAGIC

white man's bur·den /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] the duty that white people believed in the past that they had to manage the affairs of less developed peoples until they had enough education to manage their own affairs. The expression comes from a poem by Rudyard Kipling, and was used esp. in the 19th century.

white meat /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] **1** the very pale-coloured meat from some parts of a cooked bird, such as the breast of a chicken **2** certain types of pale-coloured meat, esp. VEAL and PORK —compare RED MEAT

white met·al /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] any silvery-coloured mixture of metals, containing tin

whit·en /ˈwaɪtn/ *v* [I;T] to make or become (more) white: *I must whiten my tennis shoes.*

White Nile /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a river which rises at Lake Victoria in E Africa and flows to join the Blue Nile at Khartoum in Sudan, and through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea

whit·en·ing /ˈwaɪtənɪŋ/ also **whit·en·er** /ˈwaɪtənəʳ/ **whiting**— *n* [U] white material, powder, or liquid, which is used for giving a clean white colour: *She put whitening on her tennis shoes.*

white·out /ˈwaɪtaʊt/ *n* a weather condition in which there is very heavy cloud or snow so that one can see nothing and everything appears white

White Out /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE, tdmk* a white liquid used to paint out mistakes in writing, typing, etc.

White Pag·es /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] (in the US) a book (DIRECTORY) of all of the names of people in a particular area who have telephones, and their telephone numbers and usu. addresses: *Look her up in the local white pages.* —compare YELLOW PAGES

white pa·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* an official report from the British government, usu. explaining the government's ideas and plans concerning a particular subject before it suggests a new law in parliament: *a new white paper on education* —compare GREEN PAPER

white pep·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] PEPPER[1] (1a) made from crushed seeds from which the dark outer covering has been removed

White Rab·bit /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] a character from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. He keeps looking at his watch because he is late, and disappearing down rabbit holes. —see also ALICE IN WONDERLAND

whites /waɪts/ *n* [P] **1** white clothing, sheets, etc., which are separated from other items when washing (used esp. in advertisements for washing powders) **2** *esp. BrE* white clothing, esp. as worn for sports, such as long white trousers used in cricket

white sale /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a sale of TOWELs, sheets, etc.: *Robinson's has advertised a white sale this weekend.*

white sauce /ˌ· ˈ·‖ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] a thick white liquid cooked with flour, poured over certain types of food

white slav·e·ry /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] *old-fash euph* the practice or business of taking girls to a foreign country and forcing them to be PROSTITUTES (**white slaves**) there

white spir·it /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* a strong liquid made from petrol, used for making paint thinner, for removing marks on clothes, etc.

white su·prem·a·cy /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the belief that white people are better than people of other races, esp. black people, and that other races should be kept at a lower level of society —compare CIVIL RIGHTS —**-cist** *n*

white-tie /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of parties and other social occasions) at which the men wear white BOW TIEs and TAILS: *a white-tie dinner* —compare BLACK-TIE, and see picture at EVENING DRESS

white trash /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **poor white trash**— *n* [U] *AmE derog infml* white people who are poor and uneducated; the lowest social class of whites

white·wash[1] /ˈwaɪtwɒʃ‖-wɔːʃ, -wɑːʃ/ *n* **1** [U] a white liquid mixture made from LIME, used esp. for covering walls **2** [C;U] *derog* an attempt to hide a mistake or bad action so that the person who is responsible will not be blamed or punished: *That whole affair was a whitewash.* | *The report was simply a whitewash.*

whitewash[2] *v* [T] **1** to cover with whitewash: *whitewashed cottages* **2** *derog* to prevent (something bad) from being noticed or make (what is bad) seem good or harmless: *The report attempts to whitewash recent events, but we all know the minister was seriously at fault.*

white·wa·ter /ˌwaɪtˈwɔːtəʳ◂ ‖ -ˈwɔː-, -ˈwɑː-/ *n* [U] *AmE for* RAPIDS

white-wat·er raft·ing /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a dangerous sport, sailing by RAFT[1] (1) (=a flat type of boat with little or no protection for those in it) down a river which is white because of the fast water striking rocks (RAPIDS). It is a popular sport in the US.

white wed·ding /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n esp. BrE* a wedding at which the BRIDE (=woman being married) wears a long white dress —see also extra information on page 1406

whith·er /ˈwɪðəʳ/ *adv old use* **1** to which (place): *the place whither he went* **2** to what place: *Whither are you going?* —compare WHENCE

whit·ing[1] /ˈwaɪtɪŋ/ *n* **whiting** *or* **whitings** a sea fish used for food

whiting[2] *n* [U] WHITENING

whit·low /ˈwɪtləʊ/ also **felon**— *n* an infected piece of skin near a nail on the finger or toe

Whit·man /ˈwɪtmən/, **Walt** /wɔːlt/ (1819–1892) an American writer remembered for his poetry which celebrates nature and the value of freedom

Whit Mon·day /ˌ· ˈ··/ the day after Whitsun or Whit Sunday

Whit·sun /ˈwɪtsən/ also **Whit** *esp. BrE*— *n* [C;U] **1** also **Whit Sun·day** /ˌ· ˈ··/— the seventh Sunday after Easter which celebrates the coming down from heaven of the HOLY GHOST **2** also **Whit·sun·tide** /ˈwɪtsəntaɪd/— the period around this day

Whit·ting·ton /ˈwɪtɪŋtən/, **Dick** (1358–1423) a young man from London who, according to the story, ran away from his job, but then thought he heard the words "Turn again, Whittington, Lord Mayor of London" in the sound of some bells. He went back, and later became Lord Mayor of London. He is often pictured with his cat. The story of Dick Whittington is often performed in Britain as a PANTOMIME.

whit·tle /ˈwɪtl/ *v* [T (DOWN, AWAY)] **1** to cut (wood) to a smaller size by taking off small thin pieces **2** to reduce by a continuous and gradual process: *Bad financial management has whittled away the company's profits.* | *We've whittled down the list of candidates to five.* —**whittler** *n*

whizz[1]**, whiz** /wɪz/ *v* **-zz-** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to move very fast, often making a noisy sound as if rushing through the air: *Cars were whizzing past.* | (fig.) *The days seemed to whizz by.*

whizz[2]**, whiz** *n* **1** [S] a whizzing sound **2** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* someone who is very fast, clever, or skilled in the stated activity: *a whizz at cards*

whizz kid, whiz kid /ˈ· ·/ *n infml, usu. apprec* a person who is very successful at an early age, esp. in business, usu. because of great natural skill and cleverness

who /huː/ *pron* (used esp. as the subject of a verb) **1** (used in questions) what person or people: *Who's that woman over there?* | *Who are they?* | *Who told you that?* | *Did they find out who stole the money?* | *Who did you stay with?* —see USAGE **2** (shows what person or people is/are meant): *Do you know the people who/that live here?* | *A postman is a man who/that delivers letters.* | *The official who/that used to deal with your business has moved to another branch.* **3** (used esp. in written language, after a COMMA, to add more information about a person or people): *I discussed it with my brother, who is a lawyer.*

▷ USAGE 1 Except in very formal language, **who** can be used instead of **whom** as an object in questions: **Who** *did you see?* | **Whom** (*fml*) *did you see?* | **Who** *was she dancing with?*/*With* **whom** (*fml*) *was she dancing?* 2 When a word like *family* or *team* is followed by a plural verb, use **who:** *a family* **who** *quarrel among themselves* | *a team* **who** *practise together*. When such verbs are followed by a singular verb, use **which:** *a family* **which** *has always lived here* | *a team* **which** *wins most of its matches.* —see also THAT (USAGE)◁

Who, Dr see DR WHO

Who, The a British popular music group, successful in the 1960s and 1970s

WHO /ˌdʌbəljuː eɪtʃ ˈəʊ/ *abbrev. for:* WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

whoa /wəʊ, həʊ/ *interj* (a call to a horse to) stop

who'd /huːd/ *short for:* **1** who had **2** who would

who·dun·it, whodunnit /ˌhuːˈdʌnɪt/ *n infml* a story, film, etc., about a crime mystery, esp. concerned with finding out who was the criminal

who·ev·er /huːˈevəʳ/ *pron* **1** anyone at all: *I'll take whoever wants to go.* **2** no matter who: *Whoever it is, I don't want to see them/him.* **3** (shows surprise) who: *Whoever can be phoning us at this time of night?*

whole[1] /həʊl/ *adj* **1** [A] all (the); the full amount of: *When I broke my leg, I spent a whole month/three whole weeks in bed.* | *I spent the whole morning in bed today.* | *He sat next to me in the car and slept the whole way.* | *She drank two whole bottles of wine.* | *Are you telling me the whole truth?* | (*infml, esp. AmE*) *The storm caused* **a whole lot of** (=a great deal of) *damage.* **2** not divided or broken up; complete: *I ordered a whole bottle of wine, waiter, not a half bottle.* | *He swallowed the cake whole, without chewing it at all.* | *The police found a whole human skeleton.* —see also WHOLLY, **go the whole hog** (HOG[1])

whole[2] *n* **1** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the complete amount, thing, etc.: *The whole of* (=all) *the morning was wasted.* | *There are some areas of poverty, but the country* **as a whole** *is fairly prosperous.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] the sum of the parts: *Two halves make a whole.* **3 on the whole** generally; considering everything: *On the whole, I'm satisfied with her progress.*

whole·food /ˈhəʊlfuːd/ *n* [C;U] (a) food that is in a simple natural form, without anything removed or added. Wholefood is considered healthier than PROCESSED FOOD: *Brown rice and unrefined sugar are wholefoods.*

whole-heart·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* with all one's feelings, interest, sincerity, etc.: *whole-hearted support/attention/sympathy* | *a whole-hearted effort* —~**ly** *adv*

whole·meal /ˈhəʊlmiːl/ also **whole wheat** /ˌ· ˈ·◂/– *adj* [A] (made from flour) containing all the grain; made without removing the covering of the grain. Wholemeal flour is used esp. by people interested in eating healthy foods: *wholemeal flour* | *wholemeal bread* (=a type of brown bread)

whole note /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* SEMIBREVE –see picture at NOTATION

whole num·ber /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* an INTEGER

whole·sale[1] /ˈhəʊlseɪl/ *n* [U] the business of selling goods in large quantities, esp. to shopkeepers –compare RETAIL[1]

wholesale[2] *adj, adv* **1** of, being, or employed in the sale of goods in large quantities and usu. at low prices: *a wholesale supplier of office machinery* | *He buys the materials/sells the products wholesale.* | *They cost $50 in the stores, but the wholesale price is $35.* **2** (usu. of something bad) on a large scale; widespread; INDISCRIMINATE: *wholesale slaughter*

whole·sal·er /ˈhəʊlˌseɪlə^r/ *n* a businessman who sells goods wholesale

whole·some /ˈhəʊlsəm/ *adj apprec* **1** good for the body or likely to produce good health: *wholesome food* **2** having a good or desirable moral effect: *Films like that are not wholesome entertainment for young children.* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

whole wheat /ˈ· ·/ *adj* WHOLEMEAL

who'll /huːl/ *short for:* who will

whol·ly /ˈhəʊl-li/ *adv* completely: *You were not wholly to blame for the accident.* | *a wholly improper suggestion*

whom /huːm/ *pron* (the object form of **who,** used esp. in formal speech or writing): *Whom did you see?* | *I wouldn't appoint a man whom I didn't trust.* | *The minister, to whom I spoke recently/whom I spoke to recently, agrees with me.* | *She brought with her three friends, none of whom I had ever met before.* –see THAT (USAGE), WHO (USAGE)

whomp /wɒmp ‖ wɑːmp/ *v* [T] *AmE sl* **1** to hit very hard: *I'm going to whomp you if you do that again.* **2** to defeat: *The Bears really whomped the Redskins in last night's game.*

whoop /wuːp, huːp/ *v* [I] **1** to make a loud esp. joyful cry **2 whoop it up** *infml* to enjoy oneself a lot –**whoop** *n*: *whoops of victory*

whoo·pee[1] /wʊˈpiː/ *interj* a cry of joy

whoop·ee[2] /ˈwʊpiː/ *n* **make whoopee** *infml* **a** *BrE* to go out enjoying oneself **b** *AmE* to have sex

whoopee cush·ion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a CUSHION which makes a rude noise when you sit on it, used when playing jokes on people

whoop·ing cough /ˈhuːpɪŋ kɒf‖-kɔːf/ *n* [U] a disease that is caught esp. by children, in which each attack of coughing is followed by a long noisy drawing in of the breath

whoops /wʊps/ *interj* OOPS

whoosh[1] /wʊʃ‖wuːʃ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a soft sound, like air rushing out of something

whoosh[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to move quickly with a rushing sound: *The express train whooshed past.*

whop /wɒp‖wɑːp/ *v* **-pp-** [T] *infml, esp. AmE* to beat or defeat

whop·per /ˈwɒpə^r‖ˈwɑː-/ *n infml* **1** something unusually or surprisingly big: *Did you catch that fish? What a whopper!* **2** a big lie: *He told a real whopper to excuse his lateness.*

whop·ping /ˈwɒpɪŋ‖ˈwɑː-/ *adj, adv* [A] *infml* very (big): *a whopping (great) lie*

whore /hɔː^r/ *n esp. old use or derog* **1** a PROSTITUTE **2** a woman whose sexual behaviour is regarded as immoral

who're /ˈhuːə^r/ *short for:* who are

whore·house /ˈhɔːhaʊs‖ˈhɔːr-/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ *esp. old use or derog* a BROTHEL

whorl /wɜːl‖wɔːrl/ *n* **1** a circular arrangement, esp. of leaves or flowers on a stem **2** the shape which a line makes when going round in a circle and continuing outward from the centre and not joining up, esp. on some fingers (a type of FINGERPRINT) or in the growth of some seashells; SPIRAL

whor·tle·ber·ry /ˈwɜːtlˌberi‖ˈwɜːr-/ *n BrE for* BILBERRY

who's /huːz/ *short for:* **1** who is: *Who's he talking about?* **2** who has: *Who's he brought to dinner?* **3** *infml* who does: *Who's he mean?*

whose /huːz/ *determiner, pron* **1** (used in questions) of whom (the one) belonging to which person or persons: *Whose house is this?* | *Whose is this car?* | *Whose are these shoes?* | *We never discovered whose (money) it was.* **2** (used for showing relationship) **a** of whom: *That's the man whose house was burned down.* **b** of which: a new computer, whose low cost will make it very attractive to students

who·so·ev·er /ˌhuːsəʊˈevəʳ/ also **who·so** /ˈhuːsəʊ/– *pron old use for* WHOEVER (1,2)

Who's Who /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a book which contains information about the lives and achievements of important people, usu. in a particular field: *a guest list that read like a Who's Who of show business*

who've /huːv/ *short for:* who have: *People who've been there say it's marvellous.*

why[1] /ʍaɪ/ *adv, conj* **1** for what reason: *Why did you do it?* | *Why (should we) bother waiting any longer?* | *They asked him why he did it.* (not *They asked him why did he do it.*) | *I can't think why she said that.* | *Is there any reason why* (=a reason for which) *you can't come?* | *I can't see why it shouldn't work.* (=I think it probably will work) **2 why not**? (used for making suggestions): *Why not make one for yourself instead of buying one?* | *Why don't you ask him yourself?*

why[2] *interj esp. AmE or old-fash* (used for expressing surprise or slight impatience or annoyance): *I'm looking for my glasses; why, I was wearing them all the time!*

why[3] *n* **the why(s) and (the) wherefore(s) (of)** the reason(s) and explanation (for)

WI[1] /ˌdʌbəljuː ˈaɪ/ *abbrev. for:* WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

WI[2] *written abbrev. for:* WISCONSIN

wick /wɪk/ *n* **1** a piece of twisted thread in a candle, which burns as the WAX melts **2** a length of material in an oil lamp which draws up oil while burning **3 get on someone's wick** *BrE infml* to annoy someone, esp. continually

wick·ed /ˈwɪkɨd/ *adj* **1** extremely bad; morally wrong; evil: *wicked cruelty* | *a wicked man* | (fig.) *It's a wicked waste of money.* **2** *infml* playful in a rather troublesome or bad way; MISCHIEVOUS: *He had a wicked twinkle in his eye.* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE When used of people, **wicked** is very strong, and rather old-fashioned. **Evil** is a more common word. A noisy, disobedient child would not be called **wicked** or **evil,** but **naughty.**◁

wicked step·moth·er /ˌ·· ˈ···/ a standard character in fairy stories etc., who is wicked and jealous, and treats her stepchildren (STEPCHILD) very badly

wicked witch /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a standard character in fairy stories etc., a SYMBOL of evil in the form of a WITCH: *I always thought my history teacher looked like a wicked witch.*

Wicked Witch of the West /ˌ·· ˌ· · · ˈ·/ [*the*] a character in the children's story *The Wizard of Oz,* who is evil and ugly

wick·er /ˈwɪkəʳ/ *adj* [A] made of wickerwork: *a wicker basket*

wick·er·work /ˈwɪkəwɜːk‖ˈwɪkərwɜːrk/ *n* [U] (objects made from) thin woven branches, REEDS, etc.: *wickerwork furniture*

wicket /ˈwɪkɨt/ *n* (in cricket) **1 a** either of two sets of three sticks (STUMPS), with two small pieces of wood (BAILS) on top, at which the ball is bowled (BOWL) **b** also **pitch**– the stretch of grass between these two structures **2** one turn of a player to hit the ball: *England have lost three wickets.* (=three of their players have been dismissed) | *Sussex won by seven wickets.* (=with seven players left who have not completed, or yet started, their turn) –see also STICKY WICKET

wicket gate /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n old use* a small gate or door which is part of a larger one

wicket keep·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a cricket player who stands behind the WICKET (1a) to catch the ball –see picture at CRICKET

Wick·low /ˈwɪkləʊ/ a COUNTY in the E Republic of Ireland

wide[1] /waɪd/ *adj* **1** measuring a large amount from side

to side or edge to edge: *a wide road* | *The gate isn't wide enough to get the car through.* [after *n*] *a plank six inches wide* **2** covering or including a large range of things; EXTENSIVE: *She has wide interests/experience.* | *The library has books on a wide variety/selection of subjects.* **3** also **wide o·pen** /ˌ· ˈ··/– fully open: *wide eyes* **4 wide of the mark** not at all suitable, correct, etc.: *His guess was wide of the mark.* –see also WIDELY, WIDTH

▷ USAGE Compare **wide** and **broad. Wide** is the more common word, and can be used to describe most objects, openings, and measurements from side to side. **Broad** can be used to describe very large, flat areas: *a* **broad/wide** *river*, or to suggest strength: **broad** *shoulders* | *a* **broad** *beam of wood supporting the whole building.* It is also used in literary or poetic writing: *I gazed on the* **broad** *acres which lay before me.*◁

wide[2] *adv* **1** to a great distance from side to side: *He stood with his legs wide apart.* | *"Open wide," said the dentist.* (=open your mouth completely) **2** [**(of)**] (in sport) far away from the right point: *The ball went wide (of the goal).*

wide[3] *n* (in cricket) a ball that is bowled (BOWL) wide of the WICKET (1a)

wide-an·gle /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] (of the LENS in a camera) able to give a wider than usual view

wide-a·wake /ˌ· ·ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** fully awake **2** *apprec* showing fully active senses; ALERT; WATCHFUL

wide boy /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE derog infml* a cleverly dishonest person, esp. a businessman

wide-eyed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** with eyes fully open because of great surprise **2** showing a willingness to accept or admire things without questioning; NAIVE: *wide-eyed innocence*

wide·ly /ˈwaɪdli/ *adv* **1** over a wide area or range of things: *She has travelled widely.* (=to many different places) | *widely known* | *He is widely read/has read widely.* (=many types of book) | *It's widely believed* (=by many people) *that the government will lose the election.* **2** to a large degree: *widely different opinions*

wid·en /ˈwaɪdn/ *v* [I;T] to make or become wider: *They're widening the road.* –compare BROADEN, NARROW[2]

wide-ran·ging /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* covering a large range of subjects or things: *wide-ranging interests* | *a wide-ranging array of products*

wide·spread /ˈwaɪdspred/ *adj* existing, happening, etc., in many places or among many people: *The disease is becoming more widespread.* | *There is widespread public concern about this problem.*

wid·geon /ˈwɪdʒən/ *n* **widgeon** *or* **widgeons** a type of duck which lives on freshwater lakes and pools

wid·get /ˈwɪdʒɨt/ *n AmE infml* an imaginary product, used when talking about products generally and not any particular one: *If A turns out 70 widgets per hour and B makes 1.2 widgets per minute, who has a better rate of production?*

wid·ow /ˈwɪdəʊ/ *n* **1** a woman whose husband has died, and who has not married again –compare DIVORCÉE **2** *infml or humor* a woman whose husband is often away at the stated activity: *a golf widow* –see also GRASS WIDOW

wid·owed /ˈwɪdəʊd/ *adj* having become a widow or widower: *She was widowed at the age of 25.* | *her widowed mother*

wid·ow·er /ˈwɪdəʊəʳ/ *n* a man whose wife has died, and who has not married again

wid·ow·hood /ˈwɪdəʊhʊd/ *n* [U] the state or period of being a widow

Widow Twan·key /ˌwɪdəʊ ˈtwæŋki/ an amusing female character in the British children's PANTOMIME *Aladdin*, usu. played by a man dressed in women's clothes

width /wɪdθ/ *n* **1** [C;U] size from side to side: *What is its width?* | *The garden is six metres in width.* –compare BREADTH, HEIGHT, LENGTH[1] **2** [C] a piece of material of the full width that the material had when it was actually made: *We need four widths of curtain material to cover the windows.*

wield /wiːld/ *v* [T] **1** to have and/or use (power, influence, etc.): *She wields a lot of influence.* **2** *old use or lit* to hold and use (a weapon) – **~er** *n*

wie·ner /ˈwiːnəʳ/ also **wie·nie, wee·nie** /ˈwiːni/ *n AmE* **1** a FRANKFURTER **2** *sl* a fool **3** *sl* a PENIS

Wie·sen·thal /ˈwiːzəntɑːl/, **Simon** (1908–) a Jewish man who has tried to find Nazi war criminals since the end of the Second World War and tried to bring them to justice

wife /waɪf/ *n* **wives** /waɪvz/ the woman to whom a man is married: *Have you met my wife?* | *his ex-wife* | *a good wife and mother*

▶CULTURAL NOTE The TRADITIONAL view of a good wife is of a woman who spends all her time looking after her home, her children and her husband and does not go out to work and who is good at things like cooking, sewing, etc.; many people, esp. women, now think that this idea is old-fashioned and that if a woman does not like doing these kinds of things and wants to work outside her home it does not mean that she is a bad wife. –see WOMAN (USAGE)◀

wife·ly /ˈwaɪfli/ also **wife·like** /-laɪk/– *adj apprec fml or humor* having qualities that are thought to be typical of a good wife: *wifely concern*

Wife of Bath /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a character in Geoffrey Chaucer's poem *The Canterbury Tales*, who enjoys talking about sex in a humorous way

wife swap·ping /ˈ· ··/ *n* [U] the exchanging of wives or husbands for a short time for sexual relations with different partners. This is not considered usual or acceptable behaviour by most people, but is sometimes mentioned in jokes and humorous television programmes.

wig[1] /wɪg/ *n* an artificial covering of hair for the whole head, used to hide one's real hair or lack of hair. In England judges wear old-fashioned white wigs in court: *The actress wore a black wig over her blond hair.* –compare TOUPEE; see also BEWIGGED, BIGWIG

wig[2] *v*

wig out *phr v* [I] *AmE sl* to become (slightly) mad: *Their mother wigged out after the accident and had to be shut up for a while.*

Wig·an /ˈwɪgən/ a town in NW England

wig·ging /ˈwɪgɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE infml* an act of talking angrily to someone who has done something wrong

wig·gle /ˈwɪgəl/ *v* [I;T] *infml* to move in small side-to-side, up-and-down, or turning movements: *He wiggled his toes.* –**wiggle** *n* : *with a wiggle of her hips*

wight /waɪt/ *n old use* a person

Wight see ISLE OF WIGHT

Wight·man Cup /ˈwaɪtmən kʌp/ [*the*] a yearly tennis competition between the best women players from the US and Britain

Wig·town·shire /ˈwɪgtaʊnʃəʳ, -tən-/ a former COUNTY in SW Scotland, now part of Dumfries and Galloway REGION

wig·wam /ˈwɪgwæm‖-wɑːm/ *n* a round hut of the type formerly used by some Native Americans –compare TEPEE

Wil·ber·force /ˈwɪlbəfɔːs‖-bərfɔːrs/, **William** (1759–1833) an English politician who worked to end SLAVERY in the British Empire

wild[1] /waɪld/ *adj* **1** living or growing in natural conditions and having natural qualities; not bred, grown, or produced by humans; not TAME or CULTIVATED: *a wild elephant/rabbit* | *Some wild flowers are growing in a corner of the garden.* | *wild land* (=not lived in or cultivated) | *wild honey* **2** (esp. of a person or animal) violent and uncontrollable in behaviour: *a wild dog* | *He had a wild look in his eyes.* **3** (of natural forces) violent; strong: *a wild wind* | *It's a wild night tonight.* (=with very strong wind, rain, etc.) **4** showing strong uncontrolled feelings: *wild with anger/with grief* | *His speech was greeted with wild applause.* **5** showing lack of thought, order, or direction: *a wild idea* | *I'll make a* **wild guess.** (=because I don't know the facts) | *a wild throw* **6** *infml apprec, old-fash* extremely good, esp. in an exciting way: *That was a really wild party last night!* **7** [F+**about**]

Widow Twankey



extremely eager for or excited about, often to an unreasonable degree: *My son's wild about racing cars.* **8** (of cards in card games) having no fixed value but rather one determined by the player or the rules of the game: *Are jokers wild in this game?* – ~**ness** *n* [U] – ~**ly** *adv*: *The mob ran wildly through the town.* | *a wildly inaccurate estimate*

wild[2] *n* **1 in the wild** in the natural state in which an animal usually lives: *Most of these animals are in zoos now – there are very few still living in the wild.* **2 the wilds** a distant natural area with few people: *He lives somewhere out in the wilds of Scotland.*

wild[3] *adv infml* **1 go wild** to be filled with strong feeling, esp. eagerness, joy, or anger: *The critics went wild over his new play.* **2 run wild** to behave as one likes, without control: *They let their children run wild.*

wild boar /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a large fierce hairy European wild pig that is often hunted. The wild boar is no longer found in Britain.

wild card /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* **1** (in card games) a card which can represent any other card in points or value: *You can only get five of a kind if you're using wild cards.* –see also WILD[1] (8) **2** a person or thing whose behaviour in a future situation cannot be known or guessed at very well, esp. an UNSEEDED (=unranked) player in a sports contest **3** *tech* a character which can represent any other in some computer and WORD-PROCESSING commands: *Use the asterisk as a wild card in directory searches.*

wild·cat /ˈwaɪldkæt/ *n* **1** a naturally wild cat, esp. one that looks like a pet cat, but is very fierce **2** *infml* a person, esp. a woman, who shows sudden violent bad temper

wildcat strike /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a sudden unofficial stopping of work

Wilde /waɪld/, **Oscar** (1854–1900) an Irish WRITER best known for his play *The Importance of Being Earnest* and his story *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Many of the clever and funny things he said in conversations are still famous. He was sent to prison for two years because he was HOMOSEXUAL and this was not allowed in Britain at that time.

wil·de·beest /ˈwɪldəbiːst/ *n* **wildebeest** *or* **wildebeests** a GNU

Wild·er /ˈwaɪldəʳ/, **Billy** (1906–) an American film DIRECTOR whose films include *Sunset Boulevard* and *Some Like It Hot*

Wilder, Lau·ra In·galls /ˈlɔːrə ˈɪŋgəlz/ (1867–1957) an American writer famous for her books about her childhood, as an early settler in the Midwest. *Little House on the Prairie*, based on her books, became a popular television series in the 1970s.

Wilder, Thorn·ton /ˈθɔːntən‖ˈθɔːrn-/ (1897–1975) an American writer known esp. for his plays *Our Town* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*

wil·der·ness /ˈwɪldənəs‖-dər-/ *n* **1** [*the*+S] *old use or bibl* an area of land with little natural life, esp. a desert; in the Bible Christ goes into the wilderness alone to pray and while he is there he is tempted (TEMPT) by the devil **2** an area in its natural state where there are no signs of humans: *We went camping in the beautiful wilderness of West Virginia.* | *The mountain lion rarely leaves the wilderness.* **3** [C (**of**)] *usu. derog* any place where there is no sign of human presence or control: *That garden's a wilderness.* | *The city has become a lawless wilderness.* **4** [*the*+S] the state of being away from power or from the centre of an activity, esp. out of political life: *Churchill spent many years in the political wilderness before being called back to become prime minister.* **5 a voice crying in the wilderness** *phrase from the Bible* a call or warning that nobody takes any notice of: *I'm afraid I'm just a voice crying in the wilderness.*

wilderness ar·e·a /ˈ··· ˌ···/ *n AmE* an area of public land, often within a National Forest, on which no development (e.g. roads or buildings) is permitted in order to keep it in its natural state: *The Weimanuche Wilderness Area* | *Does Arkansas have any wilderness areas?*

wild·fire /ˈwaɪldfaɪəʳ/ *n* **like wildfire** quickly and uncontrollably: *The news spread like wildfire.*

wild·fowl /ˈwaɪldfaʊl/ *n* [P] birds that are shot for sport, esp. ones that live near water, such as ducks

wild-goose chase /ˌ· ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a useless search or chase after something that does not exist or cannot be found: *We went to look for him at the library, but it was a complete wild-goose chase; he'd been at home all the time.* | *She sent me on a wild-goose chase.*

wild·life /ˈwaɪldlaɪf/ *n* [U] animals and plants which live and grow in natural conditions: *a naturalist studying the wildlife of the area* | *a wildlife park*

wild oats /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* **sow one's wild oats** to behave wildly while young, esp. having many sexual partners, although expecting to live a quiet life in future. In the past it used to be considered a good or usual thing for a man to have several sexual partners before he got married, but a very bad thing for a woman. Today men and women are still judged differently by society but it is now more acceptable for a woman to have the same amount of sexual experience as a man.

wild rice /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the seed of a wild grass which grows in parts of North America and China

Wild West /ˌ· ˈ·/ the western US in former times before law and order was properly established –see also NATIVE AMERICAN, WESTERN and see colour picture on page 358

►CULTURAL NOTE The wild west is a very popular subject for films, called WESTERNS, which usu. tell the story of fights between COWBOYS and INDIANS or fights between the SHERIFF of a town and bad cowboys. These films do not give a true picture of what life was like in the wild west but for most people this is how they imagine the wild west used to be.◄

wiles /waɪlz/ *n* [P] *fml or lit* tricks and deceit, used esp. as a way of persuading –see also WILY

wil·ful *BrE* ‖ **willful** *AmE* /ˈwɪlfəl/ *adj* **1** *derog* showing a strong unreasonable determination to do what one wants, in spite of other people: *a wilful child* | *wilful disregard of our advice* **2** [A] (esp. of something bad) done on purpose: *wilful neglect|murder* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

wi·li·ness /ˈwaɪlɪnəs/ *n* [U] the quality of being WILY

will[1] /wɪl/ *v 3rd person sing.* **will**, *short form* **'ll**, *negative short form* **won't** [*modal+to-v*] **1** (used for expressing the simple future tense): *They say that it will rain tomorrow.* | *The wedding will take place in July.* | *What time will she arrive|will she be arriving?* | *I will have finished the job by that time.* | *We'll see you next week.* | *New recruits will report to the sergeant at 9 a.m.* (=this is what they must do) **2** to be willing to; be ready to: *I won't go!* | *We can't find anyone who will take the job.* | *The door won't shut.* | *Will you have some tea?* (=a polite way of offering something) | *The doctor will see you now.* **3** (used when asking someone to do something): *Will you phone me later, please?* | *Shut the door, will you?* | *You won't tell him, will you?* (=I hope not) **4** (shows what always happens): *Accidents will happen.* | *Oil will float on water.* | *He will ask silly questions.* | *Boys will be boys.* (=one must expect boys to behave in the way they typically do) **5** (used like **can**, to show what is possible): *This car will hold five people comfortably.* **6** (used like **must**, to show what is likely): *That will be the postman at the door now.* **7 I will** the answer to a question in the marriage service "Will you take this woman/man to be your lawful wedded wife/husband?", by which one agrees formally to be married –see also WOULD; see NOT (USAGE), SHALL (USAGE)

will[2] *n* **1** [C;U] the power of the mind to make decisions and act in accordance with them, sometimes in spite of difficulty or opposition: *Do you believe in* **free will/freedom of the will?** (=the power to decide freely what one will do) | *You must have an* **iron will** (=a very strong will) *to have given up smoking after all those years.* | *Even small children can have very strong wills.* **2** [U] what is wished or intended (by the stated person): *Her death is God's will|the will of God.* | *In a democracy, the government is supposed to reflect the will of the people.* [+*to-v*] *She seems to have lost the will to live.* (=the desire to stay alive) | *The prisoner was forced to sign a confession* **against his will.** | *She donated the money* **of her own free will.** (=because she wanted to, and not because she was asked or forced to) **3** [S] a strong determination to act in a particular way; intention: **Where there's a will, there's a way.** (old saying=if you really want something you will find a way of getting it) | *They set to work* **with a will.** (=with eager interest) | *He tries hard but,* **with the best will in the world** (=however good his intentions may be), *he'll never make a good teacher.* **4** [U] the

stated feeling towards other people: *She bears him no ill will for speaking out against her proposals.* **5** [C] an official statement of the way someone wants their property to be shared out after they die: *Have you made your will yet?* **6 at will** *fml* as one wishes **7 -willed** /wɪld/ having a will of the stated strength: *strong-willed | weak-willed*

will[3] *v* **1** [T] to (try to) make (something) happen, esp. by power of the mind: [+*obj*+*to-v*] *We were all at the side of the racetrack, willing her to win.* [+*that*] *God has willed that the Earth (should) turn once a day.* **2** [T (**to**)] to leave (possessions or money) in a WILL[2] (5) to be given after one's death: [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Grandfather willed me his watch|willed his watch to me.* **3** [I;T] *old use* to wish: *She is going to leave, whether you will or no|not.*

Wil·liam /ˈwɪljəm/, **Prince** (1982–) the first child of the Prince and Princess of Wales

William and Ma·ry /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *adj* (of furniture or other articles) belonging to the period when William III was king and his wife Mary was queen (the late 17th century)

William Hill /ˌ·· ˈ·/ one of a group of BETTING SHOPS owned by the **William Hill Organization**, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

Wil·liam of Or·ange /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ also **William III** /ˌwɪljəm ðə ˈθɜːd ‖ -ˈθɜːrd/— (1650–1702) the king of England, Scotland and Ireland from 1689–1702. His wife, Queen Mary II had equal power and people usu. talk about the REIGN of **William and Mary**.

Wil·liams /ˈwɪljəmz/, **Hank** (1923–53) an American popular music singer who, in spite of his short life, had a great influence on American COUNTRY AND WESTERN music

Williams, Ralph Vaughan see VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Williams, Robin (1952–) an American actor and COMEDIAN whose films include *Good Morning Vietnam* and *Dead Poets Society* —see colour picture on page 553

Williams, Shir·ley /ˈʃɜːli‖ˈʃɜːr-/ (1930–) an English politician and former Labour MINISTER of Education who left Labour to help establish the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in 1981

Williams, Ted /ted/ (1918–) a BASEBALL player famous for being a good hitter. Many BATS have his name on them as a kind of advertisement.

Williams, Tennessee (1911–83) an American writer whose plays are mainly about people with emotional problems and are set in the Southern States. His plays include *The Glass Menagerie, A Streetcar Named Desire,* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*

William the Con·quer·or /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ also **William I** /ˌwɪljəm ðə ˈfɜːst ‖ -ˈfɜːrst/— (1027–87) the DUKE of Normandy who became king of England after defeating King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. He gave a lot of power to other Normans and built many castles to control the English. He changed the organization of society and the rules about who owned the land. —see also HASTINGS, DOMESDAY BOOK, NORMAN CONQUEST

wil·lie also **willy** /ˈwɪli/ *n BrE euph sl for* PENIS

wil·lies /ˈwɪliz/ *n* **give someone the willies** *infml* to make someone frightened and uncomfortable, e.g. by being strange or dark: *This place|That person|The way he speaks gives me the willies.*

will·ing /ˈwɪlɪŋ/ *adj* **1** [F] regarding favourably the possibility of doing something; ready: *If the management is willing, the talks can be held today.* [+*to-v*] *Are you willing to help?* **2** *apprec* acting eagerly and without being forced: *a willing helper|volunteer* **3** [A] done or given gladly and without being forced: *willing help* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]: *willingness to help*

will-o'-the-wisp /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* **1** a bluish moving light seen at night over wet ground because of the burning of waste gases from decayed plants **2** something undependable, esp. an aim that cannot be reached: *chasing the will-o'-the-wisp of perfection*

wil·low /ˈwɪləʊ/ *n* **1** [C] also **willow tree** /ˈ·· ·/— a type of tree which grows near water, with long thin branches —see picture at TREE **2** [U] the wood from this tree —see also **the crack of leather on willow** (LEATHER)

willow pat·tern /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a set of pictures, usu. in blue and white and usu. including a willow tree and a river, which represent a Chinese story and are used to decorate plates, cups, etc.

wil·low·y /ˈwɪləʊi/ *adj* (of a woman) pleasantly tall, thin, and graceful; SLENDER

will·pow·er /ˈwɪlˌpaʊəʳ/ *n* [U] strength of WILL[2] (1); ability to control one's own actions and desires: *She managed to stop smoking by sheer will power.*

wil·ly-nil·ly /ˌwɪli ˈnɪli/ *adv* regardless of whether it is wanted or not: *The new law will be passed willy-nilly* (=whether or not we want it) *so we will have to consider how it affects us.*

Wil·son /ˈwɪlsən/, **Sir Harold** (1916–) an English Labour politician who was PRIME MINISTER from 1964 to 1970 and 1974 to 1976

Wilson, Wood·row /ˈwʊdrəʊ/ (1856–1924) an American Democratic politician who was president of the US from 1913 to 1921 and led the country into the First World War. He helped to form the League of Nations.

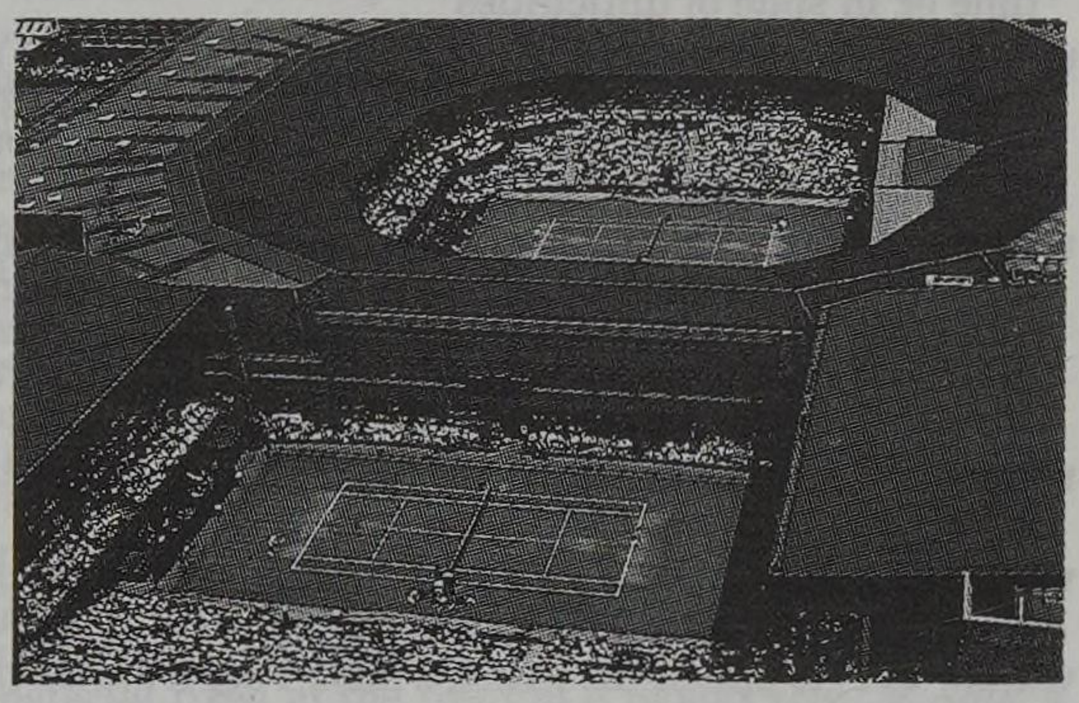
wilt[1] /wɪlt/ *v* **1** [I;T] **a** (of a plant) to become less fresh, bend, and start to die: *The flowers are wilting from lack of water.* **b** to cause (a plant) to become less fresh, bend, and start to die —compare WITHER **2** [I] (of a person) to become tired and weaker: *I'm wilting in this heat.*

wilt[2] *v* **thou wilt** *old use or bibl* (when talking to one person) you will

Wilt·shire /ˈwɪltʃəʳ/ a COUNTY in SW England which contains the towns of Trowbridge and Salisbury

wil·y /ˈwaɪli/ *adj* clever in using tricks, esp. in order to get what one wants; CRAFTY: *a wily fox|negotiator* —see also WILES —~**iness** *n* [U]

Wimbledon



Wim·ble·don /ˈwɪmbəldən/ an important tennis competition which takes place every summer at the All England Club, in the part of London called Wimbledon. Wimbledon is considered to be typically English and rather old-fashioned and is an important social occasion as well as being a sporting event. It is TRADITIONAL to eat strawberries (STRAWBERRY) and cream and drink CHAMPAGNE or PIMMS. People often joke about the fact that it often rains during Wimbledon: *her first Wimbledon final | Rain has delayed the start of play at Wimbledon.*

wimp[1] /wɪmp/ *n infml derog* a weak or useless person, esp. a man —**wimpy, wimpish** *adj*

wimp[2] *n* (a computer featuring) windows, ICONS (2), MENUS (2), and pointers, which make it easier for an unfamiliar user to learn to use a computer: *a wimp interface*

Wim·pey /ˈwɪmpi/ a large British building company, best known to most people for their private houses often built in large groups or ESTATES (2)

wim·ple /ˈwɪmpəl/ *n* a covering of cloth over the head and arranged round the neck and face, formerly worn by women in the MIDDLE AGES, and now by some NUNS

Wim·py /ˈwɪmpi/ *n BrE tdmk* a HAMBURGER (1) sold at a **Wimpy Bar** restaurant

Wim·sey /ˈwɪmzi/, **Lord Peter** the DETECTIVE who is the main character in the books by Dorothy L Sayers. He is an UPPER-CLASS man who is always very polite to people, but manages to SOLVE crimes.

win[1] /wɪn/ *v* **won** /wʌn/, *present participle* **winning** **1** [I;T] to be the best or first in (a battle, competition, race, etc.); defeat one's opponent (in): *We won by scoring in the last minute.* | *I never win at cards|at tennis.* | *He won the race.* | *Who do you think will win the election?* | *I won my bet.* | *The winning team was given a silver cup.* | (fig.) *OK,* **you win** (=I admit that you are right, you have persuaded me,

etc.) —*we'll do it your way.* —opposite **lose** **2** [T] to gain or receive as a result of victory or success in any kind of competition: *She won third place|a bronze medal.* | *His horse came first and he won a lot of money.* | *Do you think he will win the Republican nomination?* **3** [T] to gain by effort, ability, quality, etc.: *I can't win his friendship, though I've tried.* | *Their proposals for redeveloping the area have won the approval of the city council.* | *a campaign to win the support of the younger voters* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *By her hard work she won herself a place at university.* **4 win hands 'down** to win easily **5 win someone's heart** to gain someone's love or strong approval **6 win the day** to be successful or gain victory: *In the end, the arguments of the environmentalists won the day.* —see also WINNER, WINNING, WINNING POST, WINNINGS

▷ USAGE Compare **win, beat,** and **defeat.** You can **win** a **game,** and after the event you can say *I've* **won!** You can also **win** a **prize,** or **win** a **victory.** A nation can **win** a **war.** When you win a game, you **beat** the other player or the other team (**defeat** can be used formally): *We* **beat** *their team by ten points.* When a nation wins a war it **defeats** its enemies (**beat** can be used informally): *The Americans* **defeated** *the British in 1781.* —see also GAIN (USAGE)◁

win sthg./sbdy. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] to get back (something that has been lost), esp. through effort or struggle: *How can I win back her love|their support?*

win sbdy. **over/round** *phr v* [T (**to**)] to gain the support of, often by persuading: *He disagrees at the moment, but I'm sure we can win him round|over to our point of view.*

win through/out *phr v* [I] to succeed, esp. after some time or in spite of difficulties

win[2] *n* a victory or success (esp. in sport): *This season we've had three wins and two defeats.* | *Forecasters are predicting a Labour win at the by-election.* | *She had a big win in the lottery.* (=won a lot of money)

wince /wɪns/ *v* [I (**at**)] to move back suddenly, often making a twisted expression with the face, (as if) drawing away from something painful or unpleasant: *She winced as she touched the cold body.* | *He winced at her angry words.* —see also JUMP[1] (3), START[1] (11) —**wince** *n* [S]

win·cey·ette /ˌwɪnsiˈet/ *n* [U] *BrE* a fairly light material with a soft surface, used esp. for night clothes

winch[1] /wɪntʃ/ *n* a machine for pulling up objects by means of a rope or chain that is wound around a turning part

winch[2] *v* [T] to pull or lift with a winch: *They winched the car out of the ditch.*

Win·ches·ter /ˈwɪnchɨstəʳ‖-tʃes-/ a city in S England with a famous CATHEDRAL and PUBLIC SCHOOL. The local government for Hampshire is based there.

wind[1] /wɪnd/ *n* **1** [C;U] moving air; a current of air, esp. one moving strongly or quickly: *the east wind* | *a 70-mile-an-hour wind* | *We couldn't play tennis because there was too much wind.* | *The clothes on the washing line flapped in the wind.* | *A sudden gust of wind blew the door shut.* | *High|strong winds made driving conditions dangerous* | (fig.) *the winds of change|controversy* —see USAGE **2** [U] breath or breathing: *It took him a while to* **get his wind** (=breathe properly or regularly) *after running so fast.* —see also SECOND WIND, WINDPIPE **3** [U] *esp. BrE* (the condition of having) air or gas in the stomach: *Cabbage gives me wind.* | *Small babies often get wind.* **4** [U] *infml derog* words without meaning: *That speech was just a load of wind.* —see also WINDBAG **5** [*the*+S+*sing.|pl. v*] the group of WIND INSTRUMENT players in a band: *the wind section of an orchestra* **6 get|have wind of** *infml* to hear or know about (something secret or private), esp. accidentally or unofficially: *The police have got wind of a robbery planned for tonight.* **7 in wind and limb** *BrE fml or pomp* in all parts of one's body: *The horse was* **sound in wind and limb.** (=completely healthy) **8 put|get the wind up** *infml* to make/become frightened or anxious: *These new police tactics have really put the wind up the local drug dealers.* **9 see|find out which way the 'wind blows** to find out what the situation is before taking action **10 (something) in the wind** (something, esp. that is secret or not generally known) about to happen/being done **11 take the wind out of someone's sails** *infml* to take away someone's confidence or advantage, esp. by saying or doing something unexpected —see also WINDY, **break wind** (BREAK[1]), **(sail) close to the wind** (CLOSE[3]), **throw caution to the winds** (THROW[1])

▷ USAGE **Wind** is a general word for a moving current of air. A **breeze** is usually a pleasant, gentle wind: *There's a nice* **breeze** *down by the sea.* A **gust** is a strong, sudden rush of air: *A* **gust** *of wind blew the door shut.* A **gale** is a very strong wind: *Our chimney was blown down in a* **gale.** —see also STORM (USAGE)◁

wind[2] /wɪnd/ *v* [T] **1** to cause to be breathless or have difficulty in breathing: *He was winded by a sudden blow to the stomach.* **2** *tech* to smell the presence of (esp. a hunted animal): *The hounds winded a fox.*

wind[3] /waɪnd/ *v* **wound** /waʊnd/ **1** [T] to turn round and round with a number of circular movements: *She was winding the handle.* **2** [T (UP)] to tighten the working parts of by turning round and round: *The clock's stopped; you'd better wind it (up).* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] *BrE* ‖ **roll** *AmE* to move by turning a handle: *I wound down the car window.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to turn or twist (something) repeatedly, esp. round an object: *The nurse wound a bandage round my wounded arm.* | *She wound the wool into a ball.* | *I wound a scarf round my neck.* **5** [I+*adv|prep*] to follow a twisting course, with many changes of direction: *The path winds through the woods and up the side of the mountain.* —see also WINDING

wind down *phr v* **1** [T] (**wind** sthg. ↔ **down**) to bring to an end gradually; cause to be no longer in operation: *The company is winding down its business in Hong Kong.* —compare WIND **up** (1) **2** [I] (of a person) to rest and become calmer or less active after work or excitement

wind up *phr v* **1** [T (**with**)] (**wind** sthg. ↔ **up**) to bring to an end: *We wound up the meeting with a vote of thanks to the chairman.* | *The company is losing a lot of money, so it's being wound up.* —compare WIND **down** **2** [I;L] *infml* to get into the stated usu. unpleasant condition or place as an accidental or unintentional result of one's actions or behaviour: [+*v-ing*] *I wound up paying for it myself.* (=In the end it was me that had to pay.) [+*adj*] *He wound up drunk.* [+*adv|prep*] *You'll wind up in hospital if you drive so fast.* | *If you keep working at this rate you could wind up with a heart attack.* **3** [T] (**wind** sbdy. ↔ **up**) *BrE infml* to annoy or deceive (someone) playfully: *Don't take any notice – she's just trying to wind you up.* —see also WIND[3] (2), WOUND-UP

wind[4] /waɪnd/ *n* a bend or turn: *Give the handle a few more winds.*

wind[5] /waɪnd/ *v* **winded** *or* **wound** /waʊnd/ [T] *lit* to blow (a horn)

wind·bag /ˈwɪndbæg/ *n infml derog* a person who talks too much, esp. about uninteresting things —see also WIND[1] (4)

wind·blown /ˈwɪndbləʊn/ *adj* having the appearance (as if) caused by the action of wind: *windblown hair|landscapes*

wind·break /ˈwɪndbreɪk/ *n* a fence, wall, line of trees, etc., intended to prevent the wind coming through with its full force

wind·break·er /ˈwɪndbreɪkəʳ/ *n AmE for* WINDCHEATER

wind·cheat·er /ˈwɪndˌtʃiːtəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **windbreaker** *AmE–n old-fash* a short coat usu. fastened closely at wrists and neck, which is intended to keep out the wind

Win·der·mere /ˈwɪndəmɪəʳ‖-dər-/ a lake in the part of NW England known as the Lake District

wind·fall /ˈwɪndfɔːl/ *n* **1** a piece of fruit that has fallen off a tree: *These apples are windfalls, but they're good.* **2** an unexpected lucky gift or gain, esp. money from someone who has died: *a windfall of £100 from a distant relative* | *windfall profits*

wind gauge /ˈwɪnd geɪdʒ/ *n* an instrument which measures the strength of the wind

wind·ing /ˈwaɪndɪŋ/ *adj* having a twisting turning shape: *a winding path* | *winding stairs* —see also WIND[3] (5)

winding sheet /ˈwaɪndɪŋ ʃiːt/ *n* a SHROUD[1] (1)

wind in·stru·ment /ˈwɪnd ˌɪnstrʊmənt/ *n* a musical instrument played by blowing air through it: *Trumpets and clarinets are wind instruments.* —see pictures at BRASS and WOODWIND

Wind in the Wil·lows /ˌwɪnd ɪn ðə ˈwɪləʊz/, **The** a popular children's story by Kenneth Grahame, whose characters are all animals who live on the river bank. The main characters are Mole, Ratty, Toad, and Badger.

wind·jam·mer /ˈwɪndˌdʒæməʳ/ *n* a large sailing ship, esp. of a type that was used for trade in the 19th century

The Wind in the Willows



wind·lass /ˈwɪndləs/ *n* a machine for pulling or moving objects by means of a turning part, often with a handle

windmills

windmills/wind turbines

wind·mill /ˈwɪndˌmɪl/ *n* **1 a** a building or structure with large sails or similar parts which are turned round by the wind, used esp. for crushing grain **b** also **wind turbine**– a similar machine used to produce power for electricity: *windmill farms in California* **2** ‖ also **pinwheel** *AmE*– a toy consisting of a stick with usu. four small curved pieces at the end which turn round when blown –see also **tilt at windmills** (TILT)

win·dow /ˈwɪndəʊ/ *n* **1 a** a usu. glass-filled opening in the wall of a building, in a vehicle etc., to let in light and air: *the bedroom windows | It's cold in here; shut the window.| She sat looking out of the window. | The car has a heated rear window.* **b** a piece of glass in a window; WINDOWPANE: *The burglars smashed the window to get into the house. | a stained-glass window | a window cleaner | goods displayed in a shop window* –see also BAY WINDOW, FRENCH WINDOWS, SASH WINDOW, and see pictures at CAR and HOUSE **2** *tech* **a** one of a number of areas into which a computer's SCREEN can be divided, each of which is used to show a particular type of information **b** a part of the Earth's ATMOSPHERE through which radio waves can pass to or from space **c** a short period of time that is the only one that can be used for a particular activity: *a launch window for a space rocket* **3** a transparent area on the front of an envelope, through which the address can be seen on the letter inside

window box /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a box full of earth in which plants can be grown outside a window

window clean·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a person whose job is cleaning windows.

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain, window cleaners are often mentioned in jokes because people imagine that they see a lot of strange or interesting things while they are doing their work, such as people with no clothes on.◄

window dres·ser /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* someone whose job is window dressing

window dress·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** the art or practice of arranging goods in a shop window to give a good effect and attract customers **2** *usu. derog* something that is intended to attract people to an idea or activity, esp. by showing only what is favourable: *All these films and glossy pamphlets about the new house-building programme are just window dressing; it's going to cost the taxpayer a lot of money.*

win·dow·ing /ˈwɪndəʊɪŋ/ *n* [U] *tech* the designing (DESIGN) of computer PROGRAMS in a way that lets a person use them by means of windows (2a)

win·dow·pane /ˈwɪndəʊpeɪn/ *n* a single whole piece of glass in a window

window seat /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* **1** a seat inside a room below a window esp. a BAY window **2** a seat next to the window in a bus, plane, etc.

window shade /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* BLIND[3] (1) –see picture at KITCHEN

window-shop /ˈ·· ·/ *v* **-pp-** [I] to look at the goods shown in shop windows without necessarily intending to buy: *I like going window-shopping.* –~**per** *n*

win·dow·sill /ˈwɪndəʊˌsɪl/ *n* a flat shelf at the base of a window, on the inside or outside –see picture at HOUSE

wind·pipe /ˈwɪndpaɪp/ also **trachea** *med*– *n* the tube which forms an air passage from the throat to the top of the lungs –see picture at RESPIRATORY

Wind·scale /ˈwɪndskeɪl/ the former name of Sellafield NUCLEAR POWER STATION –see SELLAFIELD

wind·screen /ˈwɪndskriːn/ *BrE* ‖ **windshield** *AmE*– *n* a piece of glass or transparent material across the front of a car, TRUCK, etc., which the driver looks through –see picture at CAR

windscreen wash·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an apparatus consisting of a water bottle, a pipe and a small JET[1](3) through which the water is forced onto a car windscreen for cleaning it while driving

windscreen wip·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a movable arm which clears rain from a windscreen –see picture at CAR

wind·shield /ˈwɪndʃiːld/ *n* **1** a piece of transparent material fixed at the front of a motorcycle **2** *AmE* a windscreen –see picture at CAR

wind·sock /ˈwɪndsɒk‖-sɑːk/ *n* a piece of material shaped like a tube coming to a point at one end, fastened to a pole at airports to show the direction of the wind

Wind·sor /ˈwɪnzəʳ/ a town in S England on the river Thames famous for its castle –see also WINDSOR CASTLE, WINDSORS

Windsor Cas·tle /ˌ·· ˈ··/ one of the official homes of the British royal family, which is in the town of Windsor. It was badly damaged by a fire in 1993.

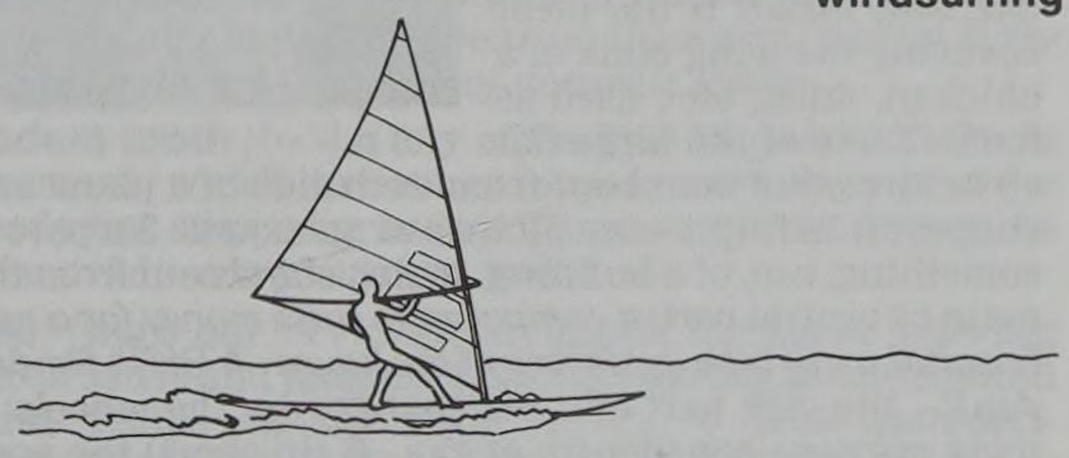
Windsor Great Park /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ·/ the large park in which Windsor Castle stands

Wind·sors /ˈwɪndzəz‖-zərz/ [*the* + P] the family name of the British Royal Family, used esp. by newspapers

Windsor Sa·fa·ri Park /ˌ·· ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ a ZOO near Windsor in S England where many of the animals are given the freedom of large enclosed areas which people may drive through

wind·storm /ˈwɪndstɔːm‖-ɔːrm/ *n* a weather condition of strong wind, with little or no rain

windsurfing



wind-surf·ing /ˈwɪnd ˌsɜːfɪŋ‖-ˌsɜːr-/ *n* [U] the sport of riding on SAILBOARDS –see also SURF[2] –**-er** *n*

wind·swept /ˈwɪndswept/ *adj* **1** (of a place) open to the wind, esp. when there are no trees or buildings nearby: *a windswept moor | the windswept ruins of an ancient city* **2** (of a person, their hair, etc.) untidy (as if) blown by the wind: *She looked windswept when she came in out of the storm.*

wind tun·nel /ˈwɪnd ˌtʌnl/ *n* an artificial enclosed passage through which air is forced at fixed speeds to test aircraft and their parts

wind tur·bine /ˈwɪnd ˌtɜːbaɪn‖-ˌtɜːrbɨn, -baɪn/ *n* a WINDMILL (1b) —see picture at WINDMILL

wind·ward[1] /ˈwɪndwəd‖-wərd/ *adj, adv esp. naut* **1** against the direction of the wind; towards the direction from which the wind is blowing: *We steered windward|a windward course.* **2** facing the wind: *the windward side of the wall* —opposite **leeward**

windward[2] *n* [U] *esp. naut* the side or direction from which the wind is blowing: *We steered a course to windward.*

Windward Is·lands /ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*+P] a group of islands in the West Indies which includes Martinique, Grenada and St. Lucia

wind·y /ˈwɪndi/ *adj* **1** with a lot of wind: *a windy day | a windy hillside* **2** *esp. lit* (of a person or speech) full of fine-sounding but meaningless words, esp. when praising oneself **3** causing air or gas in the stomach **4** *old-fash infml, esp. BrE* frightened or nervous —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

Windy Cit·y /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] CHICAGO

wine[1] /waɪn/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an) alcoholic drink made from GRAPES: *a glass of white|red wine | the wines of California|Bordeaux | my favourite wine | a wine glass | Would you like to taste the wine, sir?* (=drink a small quantity to test it for quality) **2** (an) alcoholic drink made from the stated fruit, plant, etc.: *apple wine* —see also TABLE WINE **3 wine, women, and song** *often humor* the pleasant life that represents the supposed usual enjoyment of men

wine[2] *v* **wine and dine** to entertain or be entertained with a meal and wine: *We wined and dined (them) until late into the night.*

wine bar /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a type of BAR[1] (3) that serves mainly wine and also usu. provides light meals. Wine bars are very different from pubs and usu. aim to have a more fashionable image. They are popular esp. with MIDDLE-CLASS, professional men and women.

wine cool·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a drink made with wine, fruit juice, CARBONATED water

wine lake /ˈ· ·/ *n* a very large amount of wine made by wine-producing countries that is additional to what is needed and is stored to prevent prices falling: *the EC wine lake*

wine vin·e·gar /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] a type of VINEGAR made from sour wine, used in cooked dishes and sauces

Win·frey /ˈwɪnfri/, **O·prah** /ˈəʊprə/ (1954–) an American television personality who has a daily programme in which people discuss many different subjects. She has also appeared in films.

Oprah Winfrey



wing[1] /wɪŋ/ *n* **1 a** a movable limb which a bird, insect, etc., uses for flying: *The birds spread their wings and flew away. | a butterfly with beautiful markings on its wings* —see pictures at BIRD, CAR, and INSECT **b** the meat covering the wing bone of a chicken, duck, etc., used as food **2** one of the large flat structures that stand out from each side of a plane and support it in flight —see picture at AIRCRAFT **3** a part of something, esp. of a building, which stands out from the main or central part: *a campaign to raise money for a new hospital wing | the west wing of the house* **4** *BrE* ‖ **fender** *AmE*– the side part of a car that covers the wheels: *a wing mirror* —see picture at CAR **5** (in sport) the position or player on the far right or left of the field **6** a group within a political party or similar organization, whose members have aims or opinions that are different from those of the main body of the organization: *The Senator is on the liberal wing of the Republican Party. | the political wing of the IRA* —see also LEFT WING, RIGHT WING **7 Oh for the wings of a dove** a song by Mendelssohn which is sung in a very high voice, usu. by a young boy **8 on the wing** *esp. lit* (of a bird) flying **9 take wing** *esp. lit* to fly (away): *The sudden noise frightened the birds, and they took wing.* **10 under someone's wing** being protected, helped, etc., by someone: *to take someone under one's wing* —see also WINGS, **clip someone's wings** (CLIP[3]), **spread one's wings** (SPREAD[1]) — **~less** *adj*

wing[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to fly (as if) on wings: *The plane came winging down towards the coast.* **2** [T] to wound in the arm or wing **3 wing it** *AmE, sl* to do something without planning: *"What cities are you going to see on holiday?" "I don't know – I'm just going to wing it and do what I feel like." | I didn't have time to prepare for the meeting so I'll have to wing it.*

wing com·mand·er /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* a rank in the Royal Air Force —see TABLE 3

wing·ding /ˈwɪŋˌdɪŋ/ *n AmE becoming old-fash* a lively party

winge /wɪndʒ/ *n* [I] see WHINGE

winged /wɪŋd/ *adj* (*often in comb.*) having wings, esp. of the stated number or type

wing·er /ˈwɪŋəʳ/ *n* **1** (in games like football) a player in the area on the far left or right of the field —see also WING[1] (5) **2 -winger** a person who belongs to the stated group (RIGHT WING or LEFT WING) in a political party: *Republican right-wingers*

wing nut /ˈ· ·/ also **butterfly nut**– *n* a NUT (2) with sides which one can hold while turning it

wings /wɪŋz/ *n* [P] **1** (either of) the sides of a stage, where an actor is hidden from view **2** a sign which a pilot can wear, to show he or she can fly an aircraft: *Have you got your wings yet?* **3 in the wings** not yet publicly known about but ready and able to take action when the time is right

wing·span /ˈwɪŋspæn/ also **wing·spread** /-spred/– *n* the distance from the end of one wing to the end of the other, when both are stretched out: *the eagle's huge wingspan | an aircraft with a wingspan of 50 metres*

wing·tips /ˈwɪŋtɪps/ *n* [P] *AmE* men's shoes with a decorative pattern of small holes in raised pieces of leather

wink[1] /wɪŋk/ *v* **1** [I(**at**);T] to close and open (one eye) quickly, usu. as a signal between people, esp. of amusement or a shared secret: *He winked at her, and she knew he was only pretending to be angry.* **2** [I;T] *BrE* ‖ **blink** *AmE*– to flash or cause (a light) to flash on and off: *The driver's winking his lights; he must be turning this way.*

wink at sthg. *phr v* [T] to pretend not to notice (something bad or illegal), in a way that suggests approval: *The officials winked at the trucks carrying the illegal supplies.*

wink[2] *n* **1** [C] a winking movement of the eye: *She gave him a saucy wink|a conspiratorial wink.* **2** [S *usu. in negatives*] even a short period of sleep: *I didn't get a wink of sleep|didn't sleep a wink last night.* (=did not sleep at all) —see also FORTY WINKS, **a nod's as good as a wink** (NOD[2])

wink·ers /ˈwɪŋkəz‖-ərz/ *BrE* ‖ **blinkers** *AmE*– *n* [P] *infml* the small usu. orange lights on a car which flash either on the right or left to show that it will move towards that direction

win·kle[1] /ˈwɪŋkəl/ also **periwinkle**– *n* a small sea animal that lives in a shell and that people sometimes eat

winkle[2] *v*

winkle sthg./sbdy. **out** *phr v* [T (**of**)] *infml, esp. BrE* to get or remove slowly and with difficulty: *At last I winkled the truth out of him. | We'll winkle him out of there.*

Winkle, Rip Van see RIP VAN WINKLE

winkle-pick·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*] *infml BrE* a type of man's shoe with very pointed toes which was fashionable in the late 1950s —see PAIR (USAGE)

Win·ne·ba·go /ˌwɪnɪˈbeɪgəʊ/ *n AmE tdmk* a kind of MOTOR HOME

win·ner /ˈwɪnəʳ/ *n* **1** a person or animal that has won something: *a Nobel Prize winner | the winner of last year's Kentucky Derby | The winners received a cup and the losers were given medals.* **2** *infml apprec* something that is (expected to be) successful: *That idea's a real winner.*|

The company is **onto a winner** *with this new car.*

Win·nie the Pooh /ˌwɪni ðə ˈpuː/ also **Pooh, Pooh Bear**– the main character in children's books written by A.A. Milne. Winnie the Pooh is a bear who is not very clever or brave, but is very cheerful and helpful and has lots of friends, including Piglet, Eeyore, and Tigger. He likes inventing songs and poems and his favourite food is HONEY.

win·ning /ˈwɪnɪŋ/ *adj* very pleasing or attractive; charming: *His winning ways made him popular with everyone.* | *a winning smile*

winning post /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] *esp. BrE* (in horse racing) a post marking the place where a race finishes

win·nings /ˈwɪnɪŋz/ *n* [P] money which has been won in a game, by betting (BET) on a race, etc.

Win·ni·peg /ˈwɪnɪpeg/ **1** a city in W Canada **2** a large lake in W Canada

win·now /ˈwɪnəʊ/ *v* [T] to blow the outer part (HUSKS) from (grain)

wi·no /ˈwaɪnəʊ/ *n pl* **winos** *sl* an ALCOHOLIC, esp. one who has no home and lives on the streets

win·some /ˈwɪnsəm/ *adj old-fash apprec* pleasant and attractive, esp. in a fresh, childlike way: *a winsome girl* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

win·ter[1] /ˈwɪntəʳ/ *n* [C;U] the season between autumn and spring, when it is cold. In northern countries the winter months are December, January and February and it often snows during this time: *It usually snows here in winter.* | *in* **the depths of winter** (=the coldest time) | *a cold winter* | *last winter* | *winter clothes* –see colour picture on page 1212

winter[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to spend the winter: *These birds winter in a warm country.*

win·ter·ize /ˈwɪntəraɪz/ *v* [T] *AmE* to prepare for winter weather conditions: *winterize your house/car/wardrobe*

winter of dis·con·tent /ˌ·· · ··ˈ· / [*the*] the winter of 1978–79 when many British workers refused to work in protest against the Labour government's ideas on limiting pay rises. The Labour Party lost power after this. The phrase comes from the opening line of Shakespeare's play *Richard III.* –see also SUMMER OF DISCONTENT

winter sol·stice /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the day, usu. around December 22nd, on which the sun is above the TROPIC OF CAPRICORN and as far to the S as possible, so that places in the N HEMISPHERE, like Britain, have the shortest day of the year and places in the S hemisphere have the longest day of the year. The winter solstice is not usually celebrated in Britain or the US. –compare EQUINOX, SUMMER SOLSTICE

winter sports /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] sports which take place on snow or ice such as skiing (SKI) or sledging (SLEDGE)

Winter's Tale /ˌ·· ˈ·/, **The** a play by William Shakespeare written in 1610 or 1611

win·ter·time /ˈwɪntətaɪm‖-ər-/ *n* [(*the*) U] the winter season; the time of winter weather: *Heating bills are highest in (the) wintertime.*

win·try /ˈwɪntri/ also **win·ter·y** /ˈwɪntəri/– *adj* like winter, esp. cold or snowy: *wintry clouds* | *a wintry scene* | (fig.) *a wintry smile* (=rather unhappy or unfriendly)

wipe[1] /waɪp/ *v* [T] **1** to rub (a surface or object), e.g. with a cloth or against another surface, in order to remove dirt, liquid, etc.: *to wipe the table with a damp cloth* | *Wipe your feet/shoes (on the mat) before you come in.* | *Wipe your nose (on/with your handkerchief).* | *Wipe your face/the blackboard clean.* | (fig.) *The whole nation is likely to be* **wiped off the map/wiped off the face of the Earth** (=completely destroyed) *in the event of another world war.* **2** [+*obj+adv/prep*] to remove by doing this: *She wiped the tears away.* | *Wipe the crumbs off the table onto the floor.* | (fig.) *Tell him how much he'll have to pay; that'll* **wipe the smile off his face**. (=make him less pleased or satisfied) **3 wipe the floor with someone** *infml* to defeat someone completely in a competition or argument, making them feel shame –see CLEAN (USAGE) –**wiper** *n*

wipe sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] **1** to destroy or remove completely: *The entire population was wiped out by the terrible disease.* | *The cost of the new building will wipe out all the company's profits this year.* **2** *sl* to make very tired; EXHAUST –see also WIPED OUT

wipe sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* **1** [T] to remove (liquid or dirt that has been dropped) with a cloth: *She wiped up the milk she had spilled.* **2** [I;T] *BrE old-fash* to dry (dishes, plates, etc., that have been washed) with a cloth

wipe[2] *n* **1** a wiping movement: *Give the baby's nose a good wipe.* **2** a type of cloth used for wiping

wiped out /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* [F] *sl* **1** extremely tired; EXHAUSTED **2** under the effects of drugs –see also WIPE **out**

wire[1] /waɪəʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a length of) thin metal in the form of a thread: *a wire fence* | *The string wasn't strong enough, so we used wire.* –see also BARBED WIRE **2** [C;U] a piece of metal like this, usu. covered with plastic, used for carrying electricity from one place to another **3** [C] *AmE for* TELEGRAM –see also LIVE WIRE, WIRING, WIRY

wire[2] *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to connect up wires in (something, esp. an electrical system): *Is the house wired up yet?* | *Are you wired for receiving cable TV?* **2** [(**to**, TOGETHER)] to fasten with wire(s) **3** [(**to**)] *AmE* to send a TELEGRAM to: *Wire me if you can't come.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *He wired me the results of the negotiations.* **4** [T] to send (money) electronically, by telling one bank to make the money available at another bank far away: *I'll wire you the money in New York.* | *Can your bank wire the deposit?*

wired /waɪəd ‖ waɪərd/ *adj* **1** connected or fastened with wires **2** *AmE infml* very excited or TENSE[1] (1)

wire-haired /ˌ· ˈ·◂‖ˈ· ·/ *adj* (of a dog) having stiff smooth hair, not soft or wool-like: *a wire-haired terrier*

wire·less[1] /ˈwaɪələs‖ˈwaɪər-/ *n* [C;U] *old-fash, esp. BrE* (a) radio: *listening to the wireless*

wireless[2] *adj* [A] *tech* without (using) wires; connected by radio: *wireless telegraphy*

wire net·ting /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a material made of wires woven together into a network, with quite large spaces between them, used esp. for fences

wire·tap /ˈwaɪətæp‖ˈwaɪər-/ *n* an act of wire-tapping or an electrical connection for wire-tapping

wire-tap·ping /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] listening secretly to other people's telephone conversations by an unofficial or illegal connection

wire wool /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] very fine wire woven together and arranged in a round fairly solid piece, e.g. used for cleaning pans –compare STEEL WOOL

wire·worm /ˈwaɪəwɜːm‖ˈwaɪərwɜːrm/ *n* a wormlike creature which is the young of an insect and destroys plants by eating them

wir·ing /ˈwaɪərɪŋ/ *n* [(*the*) U] the arrangement of wires that form the electrical system in a building; network of wires: *We're having this old wiring replaced.* | *faulty wiring*

Wir·ral /ˈwɪrəl/ [*the*] a thick finger of land between the mouths of the rivers Dee and Mersey in NW England

wir·y /ˈwaɪəri/ *adj* rather thin, but with strong muscles: *his wiry athletic body* –**iness** *n* [U]

Wis·con·sin /wɪˈskɒnsɨn‖-ˈskɑːn-/ *written abbrev.* **WI**– a STATE in the N central US, known for producing the most milk, cheese, and butter –see colour map on pages 1374–5

Wis·den /ˈwɪzdən/ a yearly book about cricket, giving all match results, players' SCORES, etc. Its full name is *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack.*

wis·dom /ˈwɪzdəm/ *n* [U] *rather fml* **1** the quality of being wise; good sense and judgment: *a man of great wisdom* | *I would question the wisdom of borrowing such a large sum of money.* (=I think it is an unwise thing to do) **2** knowledge gained through learning or experience: *the wisdom of the ancients* | *folk wisdom* | *According to (the)* **received/conventional wisdom** *in these matters* (=what is generally believed to be true) *the voters usually make their choice on the basis of domestic issues.*

wisdom tooth /ˈ·· ·/ *n* any of the four large back teeth in humans, which do not usu. appear until the rest of the body has stopped growing. They sometimes have to be removed –see picture at TEETH

wise[1] /waɪz/ *adj* **1** *rather fml apprec* having or showing good sense and judgment, and the ability to understand and decide on the right action: *a wise man/decision/precaution* [F+*to-v*] *You were wise to leave when you did.* | *It was wise of you to do so.* | *You'll understand when you're* **older and wiser**. **2 a word to the wise** *saying*

just a slight suggestion is enough for a clever person (usu. used to suggest that a clever person should be able to realize what the speaker means without it actually being said) **3 get wise to** *infml* to learn to understand the methods or behaviour of (esp. someone dishonest): *I've got wise to him and his game.* (=cheating) **4 none the wiser** *infml* knowing no more, after being told: *He explained it all to me, but I was none the wiser!* **5 wise after the event** understanding what should have been done to prevent a bad situation that has now happened: *If we had waited another week we could have bought the car more cheaply. Well, it's easy to be wise after the event.* —see also STREETWISE —~**ly** *adv* : *He wisely refrained from having any more to drink.* | *The money has been wisely invested.*

▷USAGE In ordinary speech, a person is usually described as **sensible** rather than **wise**.◁

wise[2] *v*

wise up *phr v* [I;T (=**wise** sbdy. ↔ **up**)] *infml, esp. AmE* to (cause to) learn or become conscious of the true situation or true nature of someone or something

wise[3] *n* [S] **1** *old use* a way; manner: *It happened* **in this wise**. (=like this) | *They are* **in no wise** *to blame.* **2 -wise: a** in the manner of; like: *to walk crabwise* **b** in the position or direction of: *lengthwise* | *Turn the handle clockwise.* **c** in connection with; with regard to: *taxwise*

▷USAGE Many new adverbs are formed, especially in American English, by adding **-wise** to nouns, with the meaning "in connection with": *The company must try to improve its position tax***wise**/*sales***wise**/*money-***wise**/*profit***wise**. Some people do not like this use.◁

Wise, Ernie see MORECAMBE AND WISE

wise·a·cre /ˈwaɪzeɪkəʳ/ *n AmE infml* WISE GUY

wise·crack[1] /ˈwaɪzkræk/ *n infml* a clever joking remark or reply

wisecrack[2] *v* [I] *infml* to make a wisecrack or wisecracks: *his jovial, wisecracking manner*

wise guy /ˈ· ·/ *n infml derog* someone who thinks they can supply information which shows that they know more than others, but which is in fact of no use: *OK, wise guy; if you're so clever, what's the right answer?*

wise men /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **three wise men, three kings**— [*the*] according to the Bible, the three wise men or kings who followed the star to where Jesus had just been born, and brought gifts of gold, FRANKINCENSE and MYRRH —see also NATIVITY

wish[1] /wɪʃ/ *v* [*not usu. in progressive forms*] **1** [T+(*that*); *obj*] to want (a particular situation) to exist, when this is impossible either at the present time or at any time: *I wish (that) I had never met you!* | *I wish I were a bird.* | *The party was awful, and we all wished we had never gone to it.* —see HOPE[1] (USAGE) **2** [I (**for**)] to want and try to cause a particular thing, esp. when it can only happen by magic; make a WISH[2] (3) in FAIRYTALES and stories somebody is often given three wishes by a FAIRY, GENIE etc. which means that they have three chances to ask for anything they want and it will happen or appear: *You have everything you could wish for.* **3** [I;T] *fml* to want: *The newspapers here can print whatever they wish.* | *I don't think I ought to, but I will if you wish*/*if you so wish.* [+*to-v*] *I wish to make a complaint.* | *You can change the office round if you wish to.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Is there anything else you wish me to bring you?* **4** [T+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] to hope that (someone) will have (something), esp. expressed as a greeting: *We wish you a merry Christmas*/*good luck*/*a safe journey!* **5** [T+*obj*+*adj*/*adv*/ *prep*] *fml* to want (something or someone) to be: *Do you wish your coffee black or white, sir?* | *We wished her anywhere except in our house!* | *She says she wishes herself dead.* **6 wish someone joy of something** *infml BrE* (used when someone has chosen the wrong thing or person) to hope that someone will enjoy something more than seems likely **7 wish someone well** to hope that someone will have success, good luck, etc. **8 wish you were here** a phrase that is supposed to be commonly written on holiday POSTCARDS, now mainly written as a joke

▷USAGE In British English it is common in informal situations to use *was* instead of *were* in sentences like *I* **wish** *I were a bird.* But in American English it would be considered bad English to use *was* in this type of sentence.◁

wish sbdy./sthg. **on/upon** sbdy. *phr v* [T] to give or pass on (a difficult or unwanted person, responsibility, etc.) to (someone else), in order to avoid trouble for oneself: *She's a difficult person; I* **wouldn't wish her on my worst enemy**.

wish[2] *n* [(**for**)] **1** a feeling of wanting something, esp. something that is at present impossible; hope or desire: *The whole world shares the wish for these peace talks to succeed.* | *Please respect my wishes and do as I ask.* | *They have deliberately gone against my wishes.* [+*to-v*] *She had expressed a wish* (=said she wanted) *to see the gardens.* | *I have no wish to appear rude, but ...* [+*that*] *His last wish* (=before he died) *was that he could see his grandchildren again.* | (in greetings) *We sent our* **best wishes** *for her birthday.* (=a wish that she would have a happy birthday) —see HOPE[2] (USAGE) **2** a thing wished for; object of hope or desire: *She wanted a new bike for Christmas and she got her wish.* | *May all your wishes come true!* **3** an attempt to make a particular desired thing or situation happen, esp. when it can only happen by magic, expressed in a special way or silently; act of wishing (WISH[1] (2)): *He closed his eyes and* **made a wish.**

wish·bone /ˈwɪʃbəʊn/ *n* a V-shaped bone in the breast of a chicken or other farm bird. After the bird has been cooked, the ends of the wishbone are pulled apart by two people, and the one who gets the longer piece can make a wish.

wishful think·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the false belief that something is true or will happen simply because one wishes it: *Their hopes of a peace settlement are nothing more than wishful thinking.*

wishing well /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a well or pool of water which people believe will make a wish come true if they throw a coin into it

wish list /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a list of things one wants, esp. from a business deal

wish·y-wash·y /ˈwɪʃi ˌwɒʃi‖-ˌwɔːʃi, -ˌwɑːʃi/ *adj derog* **1** (of drinks, soup, etc.) thin and without strength; WATERY: *wishy-washy tea* **2** without determination or clear aims and principles: *wishy-washy ideas* | *He's a wishy-washy liberal.*

wisp /wɪsp/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a thin or delicate untidy piece: *a wisp of hair* | *wisps of grass* **2** a small thin twisting bit (of smoke or steam) —see picture at PIECE —**wispy** *adj*

wis·te·ri·a /wɪˈstɪəriə/ *n* a climbing plant with purple or white flowers

wist·ful /ˈwɪstfəl/ *adj* thoughtful and rather sad, esp. because of desires which may not be satisfied or memories of past happiness which may not return: *wistful reminiscences of her lost youth* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

wit[1] /wɪt/ *n* **1** [U] *apprec* the ability to say things which are both clever and amusing at the same time: *conversation sparkling with wit* **2** [C] a person who has this ability: *Oscar Wilde was a famous wit.* **3** [U] also **wits** *pl.*— power of thought; INTELLIGENCE: *It is surely not* **beyond the wit of** *the government to solve this simple problem.* (=it should be possible for them to do it) | *He hadn't the wit to say no.* | (fig.) *The explosion frightened me* **out of my wits.** (=very much) —see also HALF-WIT **4 at one's wits end** *infml* made so worried by difficulties that one does not know what to do next **5 have/keep one's wits about one** to be ready to think quickly and act sensibly according to what may happen **6 -witted** /wɪtɪd/ having the stated type of ability or understanding: *quick-witted* —see also WITTY, **live by/on one's wits** (LIVE[1])

wit[2] *v* **to wit** *old use or law* that is (to say); NAMELY

witch /wɪtʃ/ *n* **1** a woman who has magic powers, esp. one who can make bad things happen to people, such as an illness or accident. —see also WICKED WITCH and see picture on page 1211



witch

►CULTURAL NOTE The typical image of a witch is of a very ugly old woman dressed in black and with a pointed hat, riding through the air on a BROOMSTICK. From the 14th to the 17th century, the fear of witchcraft was so great that many women were killed because they were believed, usu. wrongly, to be witches.◄

2 *derog* an unpleasant and ugly woman **3** *old-fash* a woman who seems to have unusual power in attracting men —see also BEWITCH

witch·craft /ˈwɪtʃkrɑːft‖-kræft/ *n* [U] the performing of magic to make esp. bad things happen

witch·doc·tor /ˈwɪtʃˌdɒktəʳ‖-ˌdɑːk-/ *n derog* (in some non-Western societies) a man who is believed to have magical powers and be able to cure people; a MEDICINE MAN or SHAMAN.

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and the US the typical image of a witchdoctor is either a black African man with very few clothes and a painted face or body or a Native American with a painted face and a COSTUME with lots of feathers. Both types of men are seen as quite frightening figures. These images are very offensive to people who come from societies where there are shamans, such as African and Native American people.◄

Witches' Sab·bath /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a midnight meeting of humans with magic powers e.g. WITCH*es*, SORCERER*s*, and evil spirits, attended by the Devil, believed in the past to be held once a year as a FESTIVAL or ORGY

witch-ha·zel, wych-hazel /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] (a tree which produces) a liquid used for treating small wounds on the skin

witch-hunt /ˈ· ·/ *n derog* a planned attempt, often based on false information, to remove from power or from membership of a group those people whose political opinions are disapproved of or regarded as dangerous

witch·ing hour /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] an important moment, esp. at night, when something special is to happen

with /wɪð, wɪθ/ *prep* **1** in the presence or company of; near, beside, or among: *I'm staying with* (=at the house of) *a friend.* | *Leave your dog with me.* | *All you do to make the soup is mix the powder with boiling water.* | *Who was that man you were with last night?* **2 a** having or possessing: *a book with a green cover* | *a well-known bank with over 200 branches* | *a child with a dirty face* | *The equipment comes (complete) with instructions and a guarantee.* | *With a few exceptions, it's a very friendly group of people.* **b** showing (a quality): *They fought with courage.* | *I read your letter with great interest.* **c** including: *With a tip, the meal cost $30 for two.* —opposite **without** **3** by means of; using: *You eat it with a spoon.* | *Cut it with the scissors.* | *What will you buy with the money?* | *This photo was taken with a cheap camera.* **4** (shows the idea of filling, covering, or containing): *I filled it with sugar.* | *It was covered with dirt.* **5** concerning; in regard to or in the case of: *Be careful with that glass.* | *Be gentle with the baby.* | *He's in love with you.* | *She has a lot of influence with the president.* | *Be patient with them.* | *Britain's trade with Japan* | *What's wrong|the matter with you?* | *I'm very pleased with my new car.* | *I agree|disagree with his suggestion.* | **The trouble with** *this job* (=the thing that is unsatisfactory about it) *is that the pay is too low.* **6** in support of; in favour of: *Some opposition MPs voted with the government.* | *You're either with me or against me.* **7** against: *Stop fighting with your brother.* | *Have a race with me.* | *We're competing with foreign businesses.* **8** in the same direction as: *We sailed with the wind|with the tide.* **9** at the same time and rate as: *With the dark nights comes the bad weather.* | *This wine improves with age.* **10** (used in comparisons): *It's like comparing chalk with cheese.* | *The window is level with the street.* | *Compared with other children of the same age, he's very tall.* **11** (shows separation): *She doesn't want to part with the money.* | *The new system represents a complete break with tradition.* **12** in spite of: *With all his faults, I still like him.* | **With the best will** (=intention) **in the world,** *I can't do it if they won't provide the money.* **13** because of or considering the fact of: *They were trembling with fear.* | *The grass was wet with rain.* | *With John away* (=because John is away), *we've got more room.* | *With our luck* (=considering our usual bad luck), *we'll probably miss the plane.* | *With profits up by 60%, the company has had another excellent year.* **14** (used in expressing wishes or commands strongly): *Down with school!* | *Off to bed with you!* | *Away with old ideas!* | *On with the show!* **15 with me|you** (*usu. in questions and negatives*) following my|your argument: *Are you still with me?* | *I'm not with you; you're going too fast.* **16 with that** also **at that**— when that had been done; then: *He gave a little wave and with that he was gone.* —see also **what with** (WHAT²)

▷USAGE Note how **by** is used before people or things that do a job, while **with** is used before the things that are used to do the job, in sentences like this: *He was murdered* **by** *his enemies.* | *He was shot* **with** *an arrow.* | *He was killed* **by** *a blow to the head* **with** *an axe.*◁

with·al /wɪðˈɔːl/ *adv old use* besides; together with this

with·draw /wɪðˈdrɔː, wɪθ-/ *v* **-drew** /ˈdruː/, **-drawn** /ˈdrɔːn/ [(**from**)] **1** [T] to take away or take back: *She withdrew £50 from her bank account.* | *The drug, which is suspected of having serious side effects, has been withdrawn from the market.* | (fig.) *to withdraw a remark|an allegation|an offer* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) move away or move back: *The two men withdrew from the room* (=went outside) *while the meeting voted for which should be chairman.* | *The general withdrew his army as it was suffering so many casualties.* **3** [I;T] to (cause to) not take part in an activity: *She withdrew from the election.* | *He withdrew his horse from the race.* —see also WITHDRAWN

with·draw·al /wɪðˈdrɔːəl, wɪθ-/ *n* [(**from**)] **1** [U] the act of withdrawing or state of being withdrawn: *withdrawal of financial support for his scheme* **2** [C] an example of this: *He's made several withdrawals* (=of money) *from his account recently.* | *a gradual withdrawal of troops from the war zone* **3** withdrawal symptoms

withdrawal symp·toms /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **withdrawal**— *n* [P] the painful or unpleasant effects which are the result of breaking or stopping a habit, esp. the taking of a drug: *Withdrawal symptoms associated with giving up smoking include a cough, stomach pains, bad temper, and sleepiness.* —see also DRUG ABUSE

with·drawn /wɪðˈdrɔːn, wɪθ-/ *adj* habitually quiet and often seeming more concerned with one's own thoughts than with other people

with·er /ˈwɪðəʳ/ *v* [I (AWAY);T] to become or cause (esp. a plant) to become reduced in size, colour, strength, etc.: *The flowers withered in the cold.* | *The cold withered the leaves.* | (fig.) *withered hopes* —compare WILT¹ (1)

with·er·ing /ˈwɪðərɪŋ/ *adj* intended to make someone feel uncertain, ashamed, or completely without confidence: *a withering look|remark* | *She dismissed her opponents' plans with withering scorn.* —~**ly** *adv*

with·ers /ˈwɪðəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] the high part above a horse's shoulders —see picture at HORSE

with·hold /wɪðˈhəʊld, wɪθ-/ *v* **-held** /ˈheld/ [T (**from**)] to keep (back) on purpose; refuse to give: *I withheld payment until they had fulfilled the contract.* | *He was accused of withholding information about terrorist offences from the police.*

with·hold·ing tax /·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [C;U] *AmE* money taken out of a person's wages to pay income tax: *state and federal withholding tax*

with·in /wɪðˈɪn‖wɪðˈɪn, wɪθˈɪn/ *adv, prep* **1** not beyond; not more than: *He'll arrive within an hour|within the hour.* | *The climbers got to within 20 metres of the top of the mountain.* | *The 5% price rise is well within* (=is lower than) *the limits set by the government.* | (fig.) *Try to keep within* (=not break) *the law.* **2** inside (a place, group, etc.); enclosed or contained by: *The children must remain within the school grounds during the lunch break.* | *There are serious differences of opinion within the party.* | *an attempt to reform the system* **from within** | *"This building to be sold.* **Enquire within.**" (on a notice) —opposite **outside**; see INSIDE (USAGE)

with-it /ˈ· ·/ *adj old-fash* fashionable in clothes, modern in ways of thinking, etc.

with·out /wɪðˈaʊt‖wɪðˈaut, wɪθˈaʊt/ *adv, prep* **1** not having; lacking: *Don't go out without a coat.* | *We couldn't have done it without John.* | *There's no milk, so you'll have to drink your tea without.* | *This is* **without doubt** (=certainly) *a big improvement.* [+*v-ing*] *He left without telling me.* | *Ticket inspectors check train tickets to make sure people do not travel without paying.* | *Without wishing to appear ungrateful* (=I don't want to seem ungrateful, but) *I think their wedding present could have been a bit more generous.* **2** *old use* outside: *The army is encamped without (the city walls).* —see also DO **without**, GO **without**

with·stand /wɪðˈstænd, wɪθ-/ *v* **-stood** /ˈstʊd/ [T] **1** to oppose successfully: *They withstood the enemy's attack.* **2** to remain unharmed or unchanged by: *Children's furniture must be able to withstand rough treatment.* | *a*

building that has **withstood the test of time** (=still looks good, even though it is now old)

wit·less /ˈwɪtləs/ *adj derog* (as if) lacking in ability to think; silly: *He was scared witless.* | *a witless idea* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

wit·ness[1] /ˈwɪtn̩s/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] also **eyewitness**— someone who is present when something happens, esp. a crime or an accident: *a witness of the accident* | *Police have appealed for witnesses to come forward.* **2** someone who tells in a court of law what they saw happen or what they know about a person: *the chief witness for the prosecution* **3** [(**to**)] someone who is present at the writing of an official paper and signs it to show that they have seen the writer sign it: *a witness to the will*

witness[2] *v* [T] **1** to see or notice (something) by being present when it happens: *Did anyone witness the accident?* | *The problems we are now witnessing in these areas are the consequences of years of neglect.* | *The 1980s have witnessed* (=have been a time of) *increasing unemployment.* **2** to be present as a WITNESS[1] (3) at the making of: *Will you witness my signature?* **3** to be a sign or proof of: *His tears witnessed the shame he felt.* | *The economic situation is clearly beginning to improve — witness the big rise in company profits this year.* (=this is a fact that proves the statement)

witness to sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to tell and prove (what happened), esp. in a court of law: [+*v-ing*] *She witnessed to having seen the man enter the building.* **2** to WITNESS[2] (3)

witness box /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **stand, witness stand** *AmE*— *n* the raised area, enclosed at the sides, where witnesses stand in court when being questioned —see colour picture on page 751

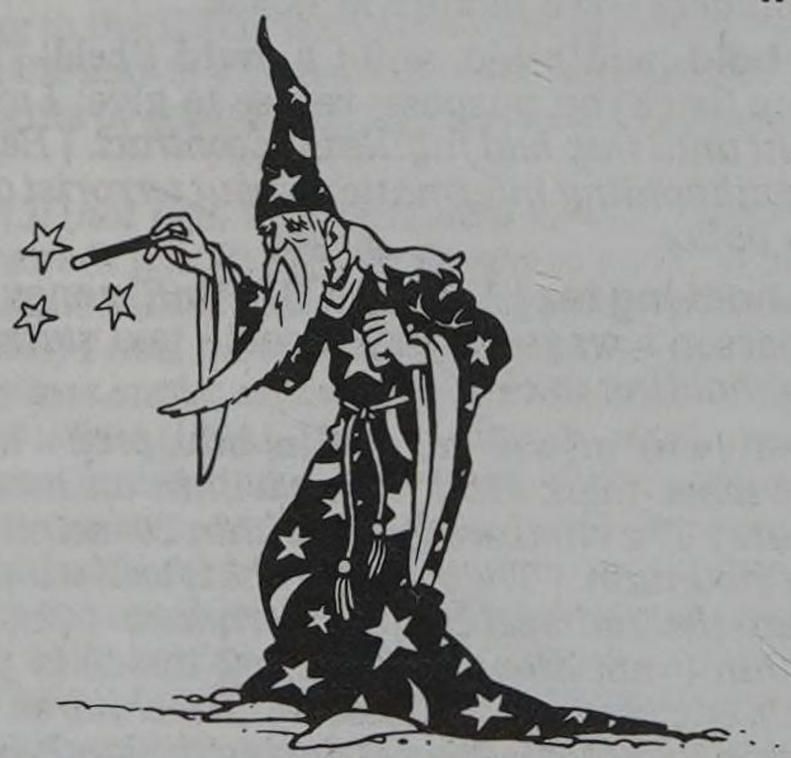
Witt·gen·stein /ˈvɪtgənʃtaɪn/, **Lud·wig** /ˈlʊdvɪg‖-wɪg/ (1889–1951) an Austrian PHILOSOPHER, whose works include *Philosophical Investigations*

wit·ti·cis·m /ˈwɪtɪ̩sɪzəm/ *n* a witty remark

wit·ty /ˈwɪti/ *adj apprec* having or showing a quick clever mind and an amusing way of expressing thoughts: *a witty speaker* | *a witty remark* —**-tily** *adv* —**-tiness** *n* [U]

wives /waɪvz/ *pl. of* WIFE

wizard



wiz·ard /ˈwɪzəd‖-ərd/ *n* **1** (esp. in stories) a man who has magic powers, usu. shown in stories as an old man with a pointed hat and a long CLOAK who uses a MAGIC WAND to do SPELLS —compare SORCERER, WITCH **2** [(**at**)] *apprec* a person with unusual, almost magical, abilities: *He's a real wizard at playing the piano.* | *a computer|financial wizard*

Wizard of Oz /ˌ·· · ˈ·/, **The** a children's book by L Frank Baum, later made into a film. It tells the story of a girl from Kansas called Dorothy who, with her dog Toto, is carried by a storm to the magic land of Oz. They travel along the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City to meet the Wizard of Oz, who can get them home again. On the way, Dorothy and Toto are joined by the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Man. —see colour picture on page 685

wiz·ard·ry /ˈwɪzədri‖-ər-/ *n* [U] **1** the performing of magic **2** *apprec* wonderful ability: *his football wizardry*

wiz·ened /ˈwɪzənd/ *adj* smaller in size and dried up, with lines in the skin, esp. as a result of age: *wizened apples* | *a wizened old lady*

wk *written abbrev. for:* week

woad /wəʊd/ *n* [U] a blue DYE (=colouring substance), esp. used in ancient times for colouring the body

wob·ble /ˈwɒbəl‖ˈwɑː-/ *v* [I;T] to move unsteadily from side to side: *You're making the table wobble|wobbling the table with your foot.* | *His fat thighs wobbled as he ran along.* | (fig.) *His voice wobbled when he sang.* —**wobble** *n*

wob·bly[1] /ˈwɒbli‖ˈwɑː-/ *adj* tending to wobble; SHAKY: *wobbly handwriting* | *a wobbly jelly*

wobbly[2] *n infml* **throw a wobbly** to suddenly behave in a very emotional way, for example by showing strong anger or fear

Wo·be·gon /ˈwəʊbɪgɒn‖-gɔːn/, **Lake** LAKE WOBEGON

Wode·house /ˈwʊdhaʊs/, **P G** (1881–1975) an English writer who wrote many funny NOVELS. His best-known stories are about a rich and rather stupid young man called Bertie Wooster and his clever MANSERVANT Jeeves.

Wo·den /ˈwəʊdn/ see ODIN

wodge /wɒdʒ‖wɑːdʒ/ *n BrE infml* a thick piece or lump of something which has been broken or cut off the whole

woe /wəʊ/ *n fml or lit* **1** [U] great sorrow: *a heart full of woe* | (fig.) *If she comes to you with* **tales|a tale of woe** (=says how great her troubles are), *just ignore her.* **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a cause of trouble; problem: *financial woes* **3 woe betide** *esp. lit or humor* (used in making threats) there will be trouble for: *We will be leaving at 8 o'clock sharp, and woe betide anyone who is late!*

woe·be·gone /ˈwəʊbɪgɒn‖-gɔːn/ *adj esp. lit* very sad in appearance

woe·ful /ˈwəʊfəl/ *adj* **1** *esp. lit* very sad; MOURNFUL or PATHETIC: *woeful eyes* **2** (of something bad) very great; DEPLORABLE: *a woeful lack of understanding* —**~ly** *adv*: *The education service has been woefully neglected.*

wog /wɒg‖wɑːg/ *n BrE taboo derog* a foreigner, esp. of a dark-skinned race (considered extremely offensive)

Wo·gan /ˈwəʊgən/, **Ter·ry** /ˈteri/ (1938–) an Irish television and radio PRESENTER, best known for his INTERVIEWS (=recorded conversations) with famous people

wok /wɒk‖wɑːk/ *n* a deep round pan used in Chinese cooking to cook things quickly in hot oil by stir-frying (STIR-FRY). Many people in Britain and the US own a wok and use it to cook both Chinese and Western food. —see picture at PAN

woke /wəʊk/ *past tense of* WAKE

wok·en /ˈwəʊkən/ *past participle of* WAKE

Wo·king /ˈwəʊkɪŋ/ a town in Surrey, SE England, thought of by many people as a fashionably expensive home for rich people

wold /wəʊld/ also **wolds** *pl.*— *n* (*usu. cap. as part of a name*) an area of hilly open country: *the Yorkshire Wolds*

Wolds /wəʊldz/ also **the Wolds**— *n* an area of low CHALK hills in Lincolnshire and Humberside in E England

wolf[1] /wʊlf/ *n* **wolves** /wʊlvz/ **1** a wild animal of the dog family which hunts other animals in a group (PACK). Wolves are no longer found in Britain, but are found in North America. **2** *infml* a man who charms women so as to use them for his own pleasure **3 a wolf in sheep's clothing** a person who seems friendly or harmless but is hiding evil intentions **4 keep the wolf from the door** to earn just enough money to eat and live —see also BIG BAD WOLF, LONE WOLF, **cry wolf** (CRY[1]) —**~ish** *adj*

wolf[2] *v* [T (DOWN)] *infml* to eat quickly, swallowing large amounts: *He wolfed his meal down.*

Wolf Cub /ˈ· ·/ *n* an old name for a CUB SCOUT

Wolfe /wʊlf/, **James** (1727–59) a British GENERAL who led the army which took Quebec from the French and gave the British control of Canada

Wolfe, Tom /tɒm‖tɑːm/ (1931–) an American writer known for his lively writing style in books such as *The Right Stuff* and *Bonfire of the Vanities*

wolf·hound /ˈwʊlfhaʊnd/ *n* a very large dog, originally used for hunting wolves

wol·fram /ˈwʊlfrəm/ *n* [U] TUNGSTEN

wolf whis·tle /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a way of whistling a high note followed by a falling note, which men sometimes use in the street to express admiration for an attractive woman who is passing. It is not considered polite to do this and many women find it offensive.

Woll·stone·craft /ˈwʊlstəkrɑːft‖-kræft/, **Mary** (1759–97) an English writer who wrote in favour of social and educational rights for women

Wol·sey /ˈwʊlzi/, **Thomas** (about 1475–1530) an English CARDINAL and politician who lost power after failing to persuade the Catholic Church to agree to King Henry VIII's DIVORCE from Katharine of Aragon

Wol·ver·hamp·ton /ˌwʊlvəˈhæmptən, ˈwʊlvəhæmptən‖-vər-/ an industrial town in central England, NW of Birmingham

wom·an /ˈwʊmən/ *n* **women** /ˈwɪmɪn/ **1** [C] a fully grown human female: *"Is your doctor a man or a woman?" "I've got a woman doctor."* | *married women* **2** [U] *fml* women in general **3** [C] a female servant or other worker: *He's got a daily woman who comes in and cleans his room.* **4 woman of the world** *apprec* an experienced woman who knows how people behave **5 women and children first** an instruction that women and children should be saved before the men in a fire, when a ship is sinking, etc. **6 -woman: a** a woman who lives in or is from the stated place: *a Frenchwoman* | *a countrywoman* **b** a woman who has the stated job, skill, etc.: *a businesswoman* | *a spokeswoman* —see also OLD WOMAN, **monstrous regiment of women** (MONSTROUS)

▷ USAGE 1 It is usu. considered offensive to talk about a man's wife or girlfriend as his **woman.** 2 Note the fixed phrase **women and children:** *The* **women and children** *hid in the caves for safety.* —see also FEMALE (USAGE), GENTLEMAN (USAGE), GIRL (USAGE)◁

Woman a popular British magazine for women, established for many years and popular esp. with older women

wom·an·hood /ˈwʊmənhʊd/ *n* [U] the condition or period of being a woman —compare MANHOOD

wom·an·ish /ˈwʊmənɪʃ/ *adj usu. derog* (of a man) like a woman in character, behaviour, appearance, etc.; EFFEMINATE: *a womanish walk*

wom·an·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈwʊmənaɪz/ *v* [I] *usu. derog* (of a man) to habitually pay attention to many women for sexual purposes —**-izer** *n*

wom·an·kind /ˈwʊmənkaɪnd/ *n* [U+*sing./pl.v*] women considered together as a group —compare MANKIND

wom·an·ly /ˈwʊmənli/ *adv apprec* having or showing qualities that are regarded as typical of or suitable to a woman: *She showed a womanly concern for their health.* —compare MANLY —**-liness** *n* [U]

Woman's Hour /ˈ·· ˌ·/ a British radio programme with news, INTERVIEWS with famous people, etc., which deals esp. with subjects of particular interest to women

Woman's Own /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a popular British magazine for women, established for many years and popular esp. with older women

Woman's Realm /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a British magazine for women, established for many years and popular esp. with older women

Woman's Week·ly /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a British magazine for women, established for many years and popular esp. with older women

womb /wuːm/ *n* an organ inside female MAMMALS where the young can develop

wom·bat /ˈwɒmbæt‖ˈwɑːm-/ *n* an Australian animal like a small bear, whose young live in a pocket of skin on its body

Wom·ble /ˈwɒmbəl‖ˈwɑːm-/ *n* one of the characters in the British children's television programme *The Wombles*, about creatures who are said to live on Wimbledon Common in London

wom·en·folk /ˈwɪmɪnfəʊk/ *n* [P] *infml* women, esp. one's female relatives

Women in Love /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ a NOVEL by D H Lawrence about difficult relationships between men and women

Women's In·sti·tute /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the* + *sing./pl. v*] a British organization for women, esp. in country areas, who meet for different kinds of social and CULTURAL activities. Although the Women's Institute has members of all ages, it is seen as rather old-fashioned and concerned mainly with activities related to the home such as cooking, sewing etc. People imagine a typical member of the Women's Institute to be an older middle-class woman who does not have a job and is quite CONSERVATIVE.

women's lib /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **women's lib·e·ra·tion** /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *fml– n* [U] *old-fash* the women's movement. Women's lib is associated esp. with the idea of women burning their BRAS to show that they are free, which some women did in the 1960s when the movement began. —**women's libber** *n*

women's move·ment /ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] (all the women who join in making) a united effort to improve the social and political position of women and to end sexual DISCRIMINATION —compare MEN'S MOVEMENT

women's room /ˈ·· ·/ also **ladies' room** *n esp. AmE euph* a public TOILET for women

women's stud·ies /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [P] studies, such as history or literature, concerned with women's changing position in society

won /wʌn/ *past tense & participle of* WIN

won·der[1] /ˈwʌndəʳ/ *v* **1** [I (**about**);T+*wh-*;~~*obj*~~] to express a wish to know, in words or silently: *"Does she know we're here?" "I'm just wondering."* (=I don't know) | *I wonder what really happened.* | *What are they going to do now, I wonder?* | *I was just wondering how to do it.* | *His opponents* **wonder out loud/wonder aloud** *whether he is capable of doing the job.* | (in polite requests) *I wonder if I can/could have some more tea.* **2** [I (**at**);T+(*that*);~~*obj*~~] to be surprised and want to know (why): *"She left home." "I don't wonder, after the way he treated her."* | *The fact that she left home is not to be wondered at.* | *I wonder he dares to show his face here again after the way he behaved!* **3** [I (**about**);T+**if/whether**;~~*obj*~~] to suggest or think (something) that is not so; doubt: *"Does she mean it?" "I wonder."* | *He says such stupid things that sometimes I wonder if/whether he's got any brains at all!* —~**ingly** *adv*

▷ USAGE 1 If you **wonder why** … /who … /whether … etc., you ask yourself a question: *I* **wonder** *why she did that?* 2 Compare **wonder** and **admire.** You can **wonder at** (=be very much surprised by) both good and bad things: *The country boy* **wondered at** *all the high buildings in the city.* You can **admire** good things (=look at them with pleasure and respect) without being surprised by them: *I have always* **admired** *the poetry of T. S. Eliot.* 3 **Wonder** can be used to soften requests: **I wonder if** … , or for more serious or difficult requests **I was wondering if** … , can be used: **I wonder if** *you could post this letter for me?* | **I was wondering if** *you could let me stay for a few days.*◁

wonder[2] *n* **1** [U] a feeling of strangeness, surprise, etc., usu. combined with admiration, that is produced by something unusually fine or beautiful, or by something unexpected or new to one's experience: *We were filled with wonder at the sight of the beautiful mountains.* | *The children gazed in wonder when they saw snow for the first time.* **2** [C] something that causes this feeling, esp. a wonderfully made object: *The temple of Diana and the hanging gardens of Babylon were two of the Seven Wonders of the World in ancient times.* | *technological wonders* —see also SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD **3** [C] *apprec* a wonderful person, esp. one who is able to do things that need great skill, cleverness, or effort: *He's a wonder, the way he arranges everything without any help.* **4 do/work wonders** to bring unexpectedly good results: *She looked so tired before, but her holiday has worked wonders/done wonders (for her).* **5 it's a wonder (that)** it's surprising: *It's a wonder you recognized me after all these years.* **6 (it's) no wonder/little wonder/small wonder** it is not surprising; naturally: *It's no wonder you've got a headache when you drank so much last night.* **7 Wonders will never cease** *esp. humor* (used for expressing surprise when the opposite of what one expects happens) —see also CHINLESS WONDER

wonder[3] *adj* [A] unusually good of its kind: *a new wonder drug which they hope will cure cancer*

Wonder, Ste·vie /ˈstiːvi/ (1950–) a black American popular music singer, songwriter, and musician. Born blind, he started recording with the record company Motown in the 1960s and has been successful and influential ever since. He is also known for his political support for other black people in the US and Africa, and for encouraging good relations between people of different races.

Won·der·bread /ˈwʌndərbred‖-ər-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of white, soft bread sold in the US

won·der·ful /ˈwʌndəfəl‖-dər-/ *adj* unusually good; causing great pleasure or admiration: *a wonderful performance* |

wonderful news | We're having a wonderful time. —**~ly** *adv*

won·der·land /ˈwʌndəlænd‖-ər-/ *n* **1** [U] FAIRYLAND **2** [C *usu. sing.*] a place which is unusually beautiful, rich, etc. —see also ALICE IN WONDERLAND

won·der·ment /ˈwʌndəmənt‖-dər-/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* WONDER[2] (1): *The children listened in|with wonderment as he told his strange tale.*

won·drous /ˈwʌndrəs/ *adj poet* wonderful: *wondrous beauty*

won·ky /ˈwɒŋki‖ˈwɑːŋki/ *adj BrE infml* unsteady and likely to break, fall, or fail: *a wonky table leg | He's got a rather wonky heart.*

wont[1] /wəʊnt‖wɔːnt/ *adj* [F+*to-v*] *fml* likely (to do or happen); in the habit of: *He is wont to express himself rather forcefully on that subject.* —see also WONTED

wont[2] *n* [S] *fml* (the stated person's) habit or custom: *She spoke for too long,* **as is her wont.**

won't /wəʊnt/ *short for:* will not

wont·ed /ˈwəʊntɨd‖ˈwɔːn-/ *adj* [A] *fml* customary: *He drove with his wonted carelessness.*

won·ton /ˌwɒnˈtɒn◂‖ˈwɑːntɑːn/ *n* [U] a Chinese food made of small filled cases of DOUGH eaten esp. in soup: *wonton soup*

woo /wuː/ *v* [T] **1** *esp. old use* (of a man) to try to persuade (a woman) into love and marriage. The TRADITIONAL and old-fashioned way for a man to woo a woman is for him to buy her flowers, chocolates and other presents, to write love letters to her and to take her to expensive restaurants. Many men (esp. young men) no longer do this and some women (esp. FEMINISTS) disapprove of this type of behaviour because they think that by behaving in this way men are not treating women as equals. **2** (esp. in newspapers) to make efforts to gain (the support of): *Politicians try to woo the voters before an election.* —**~er** *n*

wood /wʊd/ *n* **1** [U] the substance of which the trunks and branches of trees are made, which is cut and used for various purposes, such as burning, making paper or furniture, etc.: *Put some more wood on the fire. | The box is made of wood. | a polished wood floor | soft woods such as pine and hard woods such as ebony | He cut it against the grain of the wood.* **2** [C] also **woods** *pl.*— a place where trees grow thickly, smaller than a forest: *We went for a ride in the wood(s).* **3** [C] any of the set of four GOLF CLUBS[2] with wooden heads used for hitting a ball long distances —compare IRON[1] (3) **4** [*the*+S] *tech* barrels: *sherry* **from the wood** (=not from a bottle) **5 out of the wood** *BrE* free from danger, difficulty, etc.: *The situation's improving but we're not out of the wood yet.* —see also DEAD WOOD, **not see the wood for the trees** (SEE[1])

Wood[1]**, Grant** (1892–1942) an American painter famous esp. for the painting AMERICAN GOTHIC —see colour picture on page 1016

Wood[2]**, Sir Henry** (1869–1944) an English CONDUCTOR who started the yearly Promenade Concerts in London —see PROMENADE CONCERT

Wood[3]**, Victoria** (1953–) an English COMEDIAN known for her one-woman shows on stage and her television shows

wood al·co·hol /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] METHYL ALCOHOL

wood·bine /ˈwʊdbaɪn/ *n* [U] **1** *esp. poet for* HONEYSUCKLE **2** *AmE for* VIRGINIA CREEPER

wood·block /ˈwʊdblɒk‖-blɑːk/ *n* **1** also **woodcut**— a piece of wood with a shape cut on it for printing **2** a block of wood used in making the floor of a room, sometimes in a pattern

wood·carv·ing /ˈwʊdkɑːvɪŋ‖-kɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the act of shaping wood with special tools esp. as an art form **2** [C] a work of art produced by shaping wood with sharp tools

wood·chuck /ˈwʊdtʃʌk/ *n* GROUNDHOG

wood·cock /ˈwʊdkɒk‖-kɑːk/ *n* **woodcock** *or* **woodcocks** a brown woodland bird with a long thin beak, sometimes shot for food

wood·craft /ˈwʊdkrɑːft‖-kræft/ *n* [U] the skill of living in or finding one's way through woods and forests

wood·cut /ˈwʊdkʌt/ *n* **1** a picture which has been made by pressing down the shaped surface of a piece of wood on DYE (=a colouring substance) and then onto paper **2** a WOODBLOCK (1)

wood·cut·ter /ˈwʊdˌkʌtəʳ/ *n* a man whose job is to cut down trees in a forest

wood·ed /ˈwʊdɨd/ *adj* having woods; covered with growing trees: *a densely wooded hillside*

wood·en /ˈwʊdn/ *adj* **1** made of wood: *a wooden bed|spoon* **2** awkwardly stiff; unbending: *wooden movements | The actress gave a rather wooden* (=not very lifelike) *performance.* —compare CARDBOARD[2] (2) —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

Wooden, John (1910–) an American college BASKETBALL COACH (=teacher) who is considered to have been one of the best coaches of the game

wood·en·head·ed /ˌwʊdnˈhedɨd◂/ *adj* stupid; slow in thought and understanding

Wooden Horse of Troy /ˌ·· ˌ· · ˈ·/ see TROJAN HORSE

wooden spoon /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+S] *BrE infml* an imaginary prize supposed to be given to the person or team that finishes last in a competition

wood·land /ˈwʊdlənd, -lænd/ also **woodlands** *pl.*— *n* [U] wooded country; an area of land covered with growing trees: *large areas of woodland | birds of the woodland(s) | woodland birds*

wood·louse /ˈwʊdlaʊs/ *esp. BrE* ‖ also **pill bug** *AmE*— *n* **-lice** /laɪs/ a very small insect-like animal with 14 legs which lives under wood, stones, etc.

wood·peck·er /ˈwʊdˌpekəʳ/ *n* a bird with a long beak, which can make holes in trees and pull out insects. Woodpeckers can be heard hitting the trees with their beaks again and again. —see picture at BIRD

wood·pile /ˈwʊdpaɪl/ *n* a pile of firewood —see also **nigger in the woodpile** (NIGGER (2))

wood pulp /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] broken bits of the soft parts of wood, used for making paper

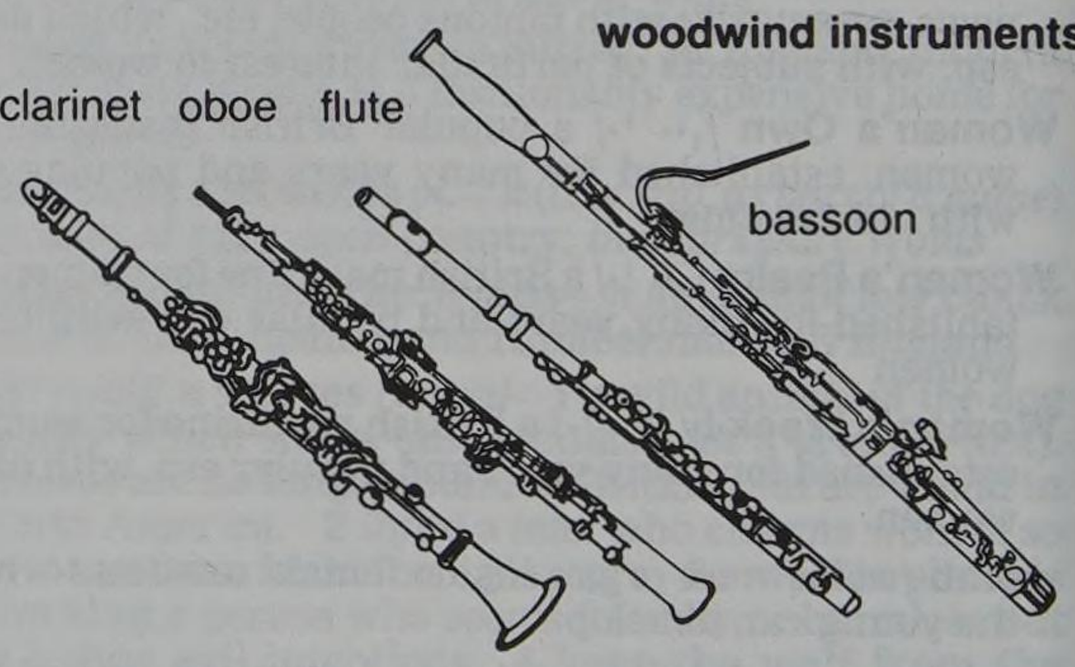
wood·shed /ˈwʊdʃed/ *n* a place for storing wood for burning, esp. near a house

woods·man /ˈwʊdzmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a man who works in a wood or forest, protecting and/or cutting down trees

Wood·stock /ˈwʊdstɒk‖-stɑːk/ a popular music FESTIVAL in the town of Woodstock near New York in 1969 which attracted thousands of young people. Woodstock is often seen as representing the HIPPIE movement of the 1960s and early 1970s. —see picture at HIPPIE

wood·sy, woodsie /ˈwʊdzi/ *n AmE* a party in a wooded area, usu. arranged by and for young people, that takes place at night and may include camping

woodwind instruments



wood·wind /ˈwʊdˌwɪnd/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] (the musicians who play) the set of tube-shaped wooden or metal instruments in an ORCHESTRA which are played by blowing, and most of which have a single or double REED (2): *The woodwind is|are too loud. | The flute and the oboe are woodwind instruments.* —compare BRASS (2)

wood·work /ˈwʊdwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] **1** the skill of making wooden objects, esp. furniture; CARPENTRY **2** objects produced by this **3** *infml* the parts of a house that are made of wood: *dry rot in the woodwork* **4** *infml* the GOALPOSTS and CROSSBAR in football

wood·worm /ˈwʊdwɜːm‖-wɜːrm/ *n* **-worm** **1** [C] the small soft wormlike young larvae (LARVA) of certain BEETLES, which make holes in wood; they can cause serious damage to buildings: *Have you treated it for woodworm?* **2** [U] the condition in which damage is done by these creatures

wood·y /ˈwʊdi/ *adj* **1** of or like wood: *plants with woody stems* **2** of or with woods; WOODED: *a woody valley*

woof[1] /wʊf/ *n, interj infml* (a word used for describing) the sound (BARK[2]) made by a dog

woof[2] /wu:f‖wʊf, wu:f/ *n* WEFT

woof·er /ˈwu:fəʳ‖ˈwʊ-/ *n* a LOUDSPEAKER that gives out deep sounds —compare TWEETER

Wook·ey Hole /ˌwʊki ˈhəʊl/ a popular TOURIST place in SW England with a CAVE where, according to an old story, a WITCH used to live

wool /wʊl/ *n* [U] **1** the soft thick hair which sheep and some goats have on their bodies **2** thick thread or cloth made from this: *a ball of knitting wool* | *a wool suit* **3 pull the wool over someone's eyes** to trick someone by hiding the facts —see also COTTON WOOL, DYED-IN-THE-WOOL, WIRE WOOL

Woolf /wʊlf/, **Virginia** (1882–1941) an English writer and CRITIC who was an important member of the BLOOMSBURY GROUP and is admired by FEMINISTS. She is best known for her NOVELS *To The Lighthouse* and *The Waves*.

wool·gath·er·ing /ˈwʊlˌgæðərɪŋ/ *n* [U] thinking of other things instead of what is being done, esp. when this leads to not hearing other people or doing things wrong; being ABSENT-MINDED

Wool·ie's /ˈwʊliz/ see WOOLWORTH'S

wool·len ‖ usu. **woolen** *AmE* /ˈwʊlən/ *adj* **1** made of wool: *a woollen coat* **2** [A] of the production or sale of materials made of wool: *woollen manufacturers*

wool·lens ‖ usu. **woolens** *AmE* /ˈwʊlənz/ *n* [P] clothes made of wool, esp. knitted (KNIT) —see also WOOLLY[2]

wool·ly[1] ‖ also **wooly** *AmE* /ˈwʊli/ *adj* **1** of or like wool, esp. with a soft surface: *woolly socks* **2** *derog* (of people or their thoughts) showing a lack of clear thinking: *His ideas are a bit woolly.* —**-liness** *n* [U]

woolly[2] ‖ also **wooly** *AmE n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml, esp. BrE* a garment made of wool, esp. knitted (KNIT): *winter woollies*

woolly-head·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ also **woolly-minded**— *adj derog* tending not to think clearly or have firm ideas

woolly lib·e·ral /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n esp. BrE derog* a LEFT-WING person who is considered to be rather weak and whose ideas are not clear or LOGICAL. People who describe other people as woolly liberals are usually RIGHT-WING and disapprove of their ideas.

wool·sack /ˈwʊlsæk/ *n* [*the*+S] **1** the seat in the British parliament on which the Lord Chancellor sits in the House of Lords **2** the position of being Lord Chancellor

Wool·wich /ˈwʊlɪdʒ, -ɪtʃ/ **1** an area of E London on the river Thames, best known for the Thames Barrier built across the river there **2** [*the*] a British BUILDING SOCIETY, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

Wool·worth's /ˈwʊlwəθs‖-wərθs/ also **Woolie's** *BrE infml*— one of a group of shops, found in many British and American towns, selling many different kinds of goods at low prices

Woos·ter /ˈwʊstəʳ, ˈwu:-/, **Ber·tie** /ˈbɜ:ti‖ˈbɜ:r-/ a character in many stories of P G Wodehouse. He is wealthy and not very clever, depending on his servant Jeeves to get him out of trouble.

woo·zy /ˈwu:zi/ *adj infml* **1** having an unsteady feeling in the head; DIZZY **2** unclear; confused —**-ziness** *n* [U]

wop /wɒp‖wɑ:p/ *n taboo derog* a foreigner, esp. an Italian (considered extremely offensive)

Worces·ter /ˈwʊstəʳ/ a city in the W of England, near S Wales, famous for its CHINA. The local government for Worcestershire is based there.

Worces·ter·shire /ˈwʊstəʃəʳ ‖ -tər-/ a COUNTY in SW England

Worces·ter sauce /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **Worcestershire sauce** /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *AmE n* [U] a dark strong-tasting liquid made from VINEGAR, SPICES, and SOY, put on food to give an additional taste

word[1] /wɜ:d‖wɜ:rd/ *n* **1** [C] (a written representation of) one or more sounds which can be spoken to represent an idea, object, action, etc.; the smallest unit of spoken language which has meaning and can stand alone: *"Good" and "goodness" are words, but "-ness" is not a word.* | *How do you pronounce this word?* | *I was trying to tell her what it was, but I couldn't think of the word (for it).* | *What's the French word for "dog"?* | *Sometimes it is hard to* **put** *your feelings* **into words.** (=to express them clearly) | *I couldn't* **find words** *to describe it.* (=it was too wonderful, strange, etc.) | *Tell me what happened* **in your own words**. (=not copying what anyone else has said) | **Words fail me!** (=I can't describe or answer that, esp. because of surprise or shock) | *Tired|angry|pleased* **isn't the word for** *the way I feel.* (=that word doesn't describe the strength of feeling) | *He's a man* **of few words.** (=he doesn't say much) | *I know the tune of the song, but I don't know the words.* **2** [S] a short remark or statement: **In a word,** *no.* | *I don't* **believe a word of** *it.* (=I don't believe it at all) | *This is secret information so don't* **say|breathe a word** (=say anything) *about this to anyone.* | *The headmistress always* **has|gets the final|last word** (=makes the last decision) *on matters of school policy.* **3** [S] also **words** *pl.*— a short speech or conversation: *Can I have a few words with you|a word with you?* | *A word in your ear* ... (=Let me give you some advice or information...) | *We exchanged a few words.* | *A word of praise from you would be much appreciated.* | *(euph) I hear that words passed between them|that they* **had words.** (=that they had an argument) **4** [U **(of)**] a message or piece of news: *There's been no word from her for weeks.* | *Word of his success soon got around.* (=spread) [+*that*] *The word is that the election will be in June.* | *He* **sent word** *that he wanted to see me.* **5** [*the*+S] the right word; PASSWORD: *He* **gave the word** *and they let him in.* **6** [C *usu. sing.*] an order: *On the word of command|On his word they all moved forward.* —see also **say the word** (SAY[1]) **7** [S] a promise: *I* **give** *you* **my word (of honour)** *I'll go.* | *I* **kept my word** *to her.* | *You can trust him; he's a man* **of his word.** (=always keeps promises) —see also **be as good as one's word** (GOOD[1]) **8 by word of mouth** by speaking and not by writing: *The orders were passed on by word of mouth.* **9 from the word go** from the beginning **10 get a word in edgeways** *infml* to get a chance to speak: *He talks so much that no one else can get a word in edgeways.* **11 in other words** expressing the same thing in different words; which is the same as saying: *Your performance in the exam did not reach the required standard – in other words, you failed.* **12 (not) in so many words** (not) expressed with that meaning but only suggested: *"Did she say she liked him?" "Not in so many words, (but...)"* **13 put words in(to) someone's mouth: a** to tell someone what to say **b** *derog* to suggest or claim, falsely, that someone has said a particular thing **14 take someone at their word** to act on the belief that someone means what they said: *He says call in on him any time, but he doesn't expect you to take him at his word.* **15 take someone's word for it** to accept what someone says as correct: *I can't give you the exact figures; you'll just have to take my word for it.* **16 take the words out of someone's mouth** to say something that someone else was going to say, before they have had time or a chance to speak **17 (upon) my word!** *old-fash* (an expression of surprise) **18 word for word: a** in exactly the same words: *Tell me what she said, word for word.* **b** also **word by word**— giving a word in a foreign language for each word, rather than giving the meaning of whole phrases and sentences: *a word-for-word translation* —see also FOUR-LETTER WORD, GOOD WORD, LAST WORD, PLAY ON WORDS, **a word to the wise** (WISE), **eat one's words** (EAT)

word[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to express in words: *She worded the explanation well.* | *a carefully worded contract*

word blind·ness /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] DYSLEXIA

word·ing /ˈwɜ:dɪŋ‖ˈwɜ:r-/ *n* [U] the words and phrases chosen to express something: *The exact wording of a legal contract can be extremely important.*

word·less /ˈwɜ:dləs‖ˈwɜ:rd-/ *adj* without words; silent or unspoken: *Her look was a wordless question.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

word-per·fect /ˌ· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **letter-perfect** *AmE*— *adj* repeating or remembering every word with complete correctness: *She rehearsed the speech until she was word-perfect.*

Word·per·fect /ˌwɜ:dˈpɜ:fɪkt‖ˌwɜ:rdˈpɜ:r-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of computer SOFTWARE used for word processing

word·play /ˈwɜ:dpleɪ‖ˈwɜ:rd-/ *n* [U] joking about word meanings; punning (PUN)

word pro·cess·or /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* a small computer used esp. for ordinary office jobs, such as typing letters and reports, storing information, etc. —**-ing** *n* [U]

Word·star /ˈwɜːdstɑːr‖ˈwɜːrd-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of computer SOFTWARE used for word processing

Words·worth /ˈwɜːdzwəθ‖ˈwɜːrdzwɜːrθ/, **William** (1770–1850) an English ROMANTIC poet whose poems are mainly about the beauty of nature and often describe the COUNTRYSIDE of the Lake District in NW England where he went to live. His most famous book of poetry is *Lyrical Ballads* (written with Samuel Coleridge) and his most famous poems include *Daffodils* and *The Prelude*.

word·y /ˈwɜːdi‖ˈwɜːrdi/ *adj derog* using or containing more words than are needed; VERBOSE: *a wordy explanation* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]: *Avoid wordiness in your exam answers.*

wore /wɔːr/ *past tense of* WEAR

work[1] /wɜːk‖wɜːrk/ *n* **1** [U] activity in which effort of the body or mind is used to produce something or gain a result, rather than for amusement: *skilled/unskilled work* | *She put a lot of (hard) work into writing that report.* | *Work on the new tunnel will begin in January.* | *The pupils complained that their teacher set them too much work.* | *He has been highly praised for the work he has done in genetic engineering.* **2** [U] (the nature or place of) a job or business: *"What's your work/What work do you do?" "I'm a reporter."/"I work in television."/"I do freelance work/repair work."* | *I go to work by train.* | *Hurry up! You'll be late for work.* | *school-leavers looking for work* (=trying to find jobs) | *What time do you get home from work?* | *Are your employers insured for accidents (happening) at work?* | *Foreigners need a* **work permit** (=official permission to work) *to get employment in the country.* —see JOB (USAGE) **3** [U] the subject, material, etc. one is working on: *I hear you've changed jobs; is the work more interesting at the new place?* | *I'm taking some work home to do this evening.* | *Don't stay inside to do your sewing; bring your work out with you.* **4** [U] what is produced by work, esp. of the hands: *This mat is my own work.* (=I made it) | (fig.) *This savage murder is clearly the work of a madman.* **5** [C *usu. pl.*] an object produced by writing, painting, etc.: *Shakespeare's works include plays and poems.* **6** [U] *tech* force multiplied by distance **7 all in a/the day's work** as expected; which can be done without great difficulty; not unusual **8 all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy** *saying* a person who spends all his time working will be a dull and uninteresting companion **9 at work** (**on**) doing something, esp. work: *Danger; men at work (on this road)!* **10 go/set to work** (**on**) to start doing something **11 have one's** ˈ**work cut out** to have something difficult to do, esp. in the time allowed: *He's got/He'll have his work cut out to finish that by Friday.* **12 in work/out of work** having a job/unemployed **13 -work: a** work done using the stated materials or tools: *woodwork* **b** something produced by doing such work: *paintwork* —see also WORKS, DIRTY WORK, DONKEY WORK, LIFE WORK, PIECE OF WORK, SOCIAL WORK, WORKS **make short work of** (SHORT[1])

▷ USAGE **Work** can be used as a general word for all activities of the mind or body: *I'm at* **work** *on a new poem.* | *Digging the garden is hard* **work.** For tiring and unpleasant work, **labour** or (less common and more formal) **toil** can be used: *Clearing the field of stones took ten days of backbreaking* **labour/toil.** If the work is tiring, uninteresting, and not respected, **drudgery** can be used.◁

work[2] *v* **1** [I (**at, on**)] to do an activity which uses effort, esp. as one's job: *She works in a factory/for the council/as a bus driver.* | *I'm working on a new book.* | *I spent the whole weekend working in the garden.* | *He's still not very good at speaking English, but he's working at it.* (=trying hard) | *The builders worked closely with the architect in the construction of the offices.* —see also WORKING **2** [I] (of a plan, machine, or moving part) to operate in the proper way; perform the expected job without failing: *Does this light work?* | *The clock hasn't been working since I dropped it on the floor.* | *Your idea won't work in practice.* | *It works by electricity.* | *Can you explain to me how the banking system works?* —compare GO[1] (8) **3** [T+*obj* +*adv/prep*] to make (a person) do work: *They work us too hard in this office.* **4** [T] to make (a machine) operate: *Working these heavy presses is very tiring.* | *How do you work the gears on this bike?* | *It's worked by electricity.* **5** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to make (one's way) by work or effort: *He worked his way to the front of the crowd.* | *She worked her way through college.* (=paid for herself to go to college by working) **6** [I+*adj/adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adj/adv/prep*] to (cause to) reach a state or position by small movements: *This little screw has worked (itself) loose.* | (fig.) *He worked himself into a temper.* | (fig.) *They're gradually working round to our point of view.* **7** [T] to produce (an effect): *This medicine works wonders/miracles.* **8** [T] *infml* to arrange, esp. unofficially: *How did you work it? Two days extra holiday!* | *I'll try and work it so that we can all go together.* **9** [I+*adv/prep*] to produce a particular effect or result: *She found that her lack of experience worked against her in trying to get a job.* **10** [T *often pass.*] to stitch: *a baby's dress worked by hand* **11** [I] *tech for* FERMENT[1] (1) **12 work one's fingers to the bone** to work very hard **13 work to rule** *BrE* to obey the rules of one's work so exactly that one causes inconvenience to others, in order to support a claim for more money, shorter working hours, etc. —see also WORKER, WORK-TO-RULE

▷ USAGE To make this word stronger you can use **hard:** *He worked* **hard**/*very* **hard**/*very* **hard** *indeed*◁

work sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T(**to**)] to include, by a clever arrangement of words: *I'll try to work in a mention of the help you gave.* | *He worked a mention of her into his speech.*

work sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to get rid of, by work or activity: *He worked off his anger by chopping some logs.* | *I have three years to work off the debt.*

work on sthg. *phr v* [T] to give one's attention to doing or trying to do: *"Have you drawn up that list of names yet?" "No, but I'm working on it."*

work out *phr v* **1** [T] (**work** sthg. ↔ **out**) to find by reasoning or calculating: *Have you worked out the answer/the sum yet?* [+*wh-*] *Try and work out how much it will all cost.* | *The police couldn't work out how the thieves had entered the building.* [+*that*] *She'd worked out that it would cost over £100.* **2** [I] to have a good result; be successful for a long time: *I hope the new job works out for you.* | *My affair with her was fun while it lasted, but I could see it was never going to work out.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to have a result; develop; TURN **out** (6): *I wonder how their ideas worked out in practice?* | *We didn't plan it like that but it worked out very well.* **4** [T] (**work** sthg. ↔ **out**) to plan or decide: *I've drawn up the main outlines, and we'll work out the details later* [+*wh-*] *I can't work out how to do it.* | *a carefully worked-out plan* **5** [I(**at**);L+*adj*] to reach a (stated) result or amount by being calculated: *The sum won't/doesn't work out.* (=I can't find the answer to it) | *The cost works out at about $20 per person.* | *If we go by plane it will work out rather expensive.* **6** [I] *infml* to exercise to improve physical fitness: *She's working out in the gym.* —see also WORKOUT **7** [T] (**work** sthg. ↔ **out**) to complete the use of (esp. a mine): *The mine was worked out years ago.*

work sbdy.↔ **over** *phr v* [T] *sl* to attack violently

work up *phr v* **1** [T] (**work** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to excite the feelings, esp. anger, tears, etc., of: *The politician worked the crowd up until they were shouting and cheering.* | *He'd worked himself up into a terrible state about the coming exam.* —see also WORKED UP **2** [T] (**work** sthg. ↔ **up**) to cause oneself to have; develop: *I've worked up quite a thirst playing tennis.* | *I'm afraid I can't work up much enthusiasm for this scheme.* **3** [I (**to**)] to move or develop (towards): *She's working up to what she wants to say.* **4** [T (**into**)] (**work** sthg. ↔ **up**) to complete (a study) gradually: *I'm hoping to work up these notes into a book.*

wor·ka·ble /ˈwɜːkəbəl‖ˈwɜːr-/ *adj* **1** which can be put into effect; usable: *a workable timetable/system* **2** (of a substance) which can be shaped with the hands: *workable clay for making pots*

work·a·day /ˈwɜːkədeɪ‖ˈwɜːr-/ *adj* [A] ordinary and/or dull: *this workaday world*

work·a·hol·ic /ˌwɜːkəˈhɒlɪk◂‖ˌwɜːrkəˈhɔː-/ *n infml, often derog* a person who likes to work too hard or is unable to stop working and does not have time in their life for anything else, such as personal relationships: *She's a complete workaholic – her job is her whole life!* —**-ism** /ˈwɜːkəhɒlɪzəm ‖ ˈwɜːrkəhɔː-/ *n* [U]

work·bag /ˈwɜːkbæg‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* a bag for tools and objects used in activities with the hands, such as sewing

work·bas·ket /ˈwɜːkˌbɑːskɪt ‖ ˈwɜːrkˌbæs-/ also **work·box** /ˈwɜːkbɒks ‖ ˈwɜːrkbɑːks/ ‖also **sewing basket, sewing kit** *AmE*– *n* a small stiff container, usu. woven, for small sewing objects such as needles and thread

work·bench /ˈwɜːkbentʃ ‖ ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* (a table with) a hard

surface for working on with tools: *a carpenter at his workbench*

work·book /ˈwɜːkbʊk‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* a school book with questions and exercises. The answers are usu. written in the book by the student.

work·day /ˈwɜːkdeɪ‖ˈwɜːrk-/ also **working day**– *n* **1** the amount of time during which one works each day. In Britain and the US most people start work at about 9 o'clock and finish at about 5 o'clock. **2** a day which is not a holiday

worked up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [F (**about**)] very excited and showing strong feelings, esp. when worried: *He gets very worked up about going to school and leaves the house crying every day.* –see also WORK **up** (1)

work·er /ˈwɜːkəʳ‖ˈwɜːr-/ *n* **1** a person or animal that works, esp. in the stated job: *unskilled workers | office|farm workers* **2** *apprec* someone who works very hard: *She's a real worker; she gets twice as much done as anyone else.* **3** someone who works with their hands rather than their mind; WORKING-CLASS person

work eth·ic /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n esp. AmE* belief in the moral value of work: *The Americans have a strong work ethic, but the Japanese have an even stronger one.*

work ex·pe·ri·ence /ˈ· ·ˌ···/ *n* [U] experience of work in general or of a particular type of work: *She's very well qualified but she hasn't got much work experience.*

work·force /ˈwɜːkfɔːs‖ˈwɜːrkfɔːrs/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] the people who work in a factory or in industry generally, considered as a group: *a workforce of 3500 | The whole workforce is|are out on strike.* –compare STAFF

work·horse /ˈwɜːkhɔːs‖ˈwɜːrkhɔːrs/ *n* **1** someone who does most of the work in the group to which they belong, esp. work that is difficult or uninteresting **2** a vehicle, machine, etc., that is very useful, esp. in performing ordinary continuous jobs

work·house /ˈwɜːkhaʊs‖ˈwɜːrk-/ [*the*] (in Britain in former times) a place for the poor to live when they had no employment, esp. when they were too old to work. Conditions in workhouses were very bad and people were very afraid of having to go there. People now think of workhouses in connection with the Victorians and with writers such as Charles Dickens who described what they were like in order to try and improve the situation of poor people.

work·ing /ˈwɜːkɪŋ‖ˈwɜːr-/ *adj* [A] **1** of, used for, or including work: *The visiting minister had a working breakfast with the head of government. | working clothes* **2** (of a person) having a job; who works, esp. with the hands: *What has the government done for ordinary working people?* **3** (of time) spent in work: *during working hours* **4** (of an idea) useful as a base for planning how to do something: *a working theory|hypothesis*

working cap·i·tal /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* the money readily available to a company for the daily running of a business

working class /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ also **working classes** *pl.*, **lower class**– *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v.*] the social class to which people belong who work with their hands, e.g. in factories or mines –see also BLUE-COLLAR, MIDDLE CLASS, UPPER CLASS and see also extra information on page 1258 –**working-class** *adj*

▷USAGE **Working class** can be used in any of the following patterns: **a** with a singular or plural verb: *The* **working class** *doesn't|don't support this political party.* **b** in a plural form: *The* **working classes** *are angry about unemployment.* **c** as an adjective: *This is a* **working-class** *area. | Most of the people in this area are* **working-class. Lower class, middle class,** and **upper class** can also be used in these patterns.◁

working day /ˌ·· ˈ·◂‖ˈ·· ·/ *n* a WORKDAY

working girl /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n euph* a PROSTITUTE

working knowl·edge /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [S (**of**)] enough practical knowledge to do something: *I have a working knowledge of car engines and can do most repairs.*

working life /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the part of a person's life that is spent at work: *He's worked for that company for all his working life.* (=it is his first and only job) | *Major changes in the working lives of ordinary people*

working lunch /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **business lunch**– *n* a LUNCH where people meet to discuss business, etc.

working ma·jor·i·ty /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* a degree of support in an organization or law-making body which is large enough to insure success of its proposals –see also PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY

working men's club /ˈ·· · ˌ·/ *n* a place found in some towns, esp. towns in industrial areas, where WORKING-CLASS men go to drink, meet friends, or for entertainment, and which is similar to a PUB

working moth·er /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a woman with children who also has a job, esp. one outside the home

working or·der /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [**in, into**+U] the state of working well, with no trouble

working par·ty /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a committee, e.g. in a business organization or a parliament, which examines a particular matter and reports what it finds

work·ings /ˈwɜːkɪŋz‖ˈwɜːr-/ *n* [P] **1** the way in which something works or operates: *I shall never understand the inner workings of an engine|of his mind.* **2** the parts of a mine which have been dug out

working week /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a WEEK (2)

work·load /ˈwɜːkləʊd‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* the amount of work that a person or machine is expected to do in a particular period of time: *She has a very heavy workload.*

work·man /ˈwɜːkmən‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** a man who works with his hands, esp. in a particular skill or trade: *The workmen fixed the water system.* **2 a bad workman (always) blames his tools** *saying* careless or unskilled people who produce bad work will blame their materials or tools rather than admit that the fault is theirs

work·man·like /ˈwɜːkmənlaɪk‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *adj apprec* having or showing the qualities of a good workman: *workmanlike methods | a very workmanlike job*

work·man·ship /ˈwɜːkmənʃɪp‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* [U] (signs of) skill in making things: *Look at the workmanship on this carved desk.*

work·mate /ˈwɜːkmeɪt‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* someone who one works with, usu. in a factory job –compare COLLEAGUE

workmen's com·pen·sa·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ also **workmen's comp** /-ˈkɒmp‖-ˈkɑːmp/– *n* [U] *AmE* payment (COMPENSATION) from one's employer for suffering harm at work or because of one's work. In the US, employers have INSURANCE to pay for such accidents, but it is still very difficult to get workmen's compensation, and sometimes a court of law is involved: *He received workmen's comp when the machinery hurt his knee. | You should apply for workmen's comp if you think that those fumes are the cause of your lung problems.*

work of art /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **works of art** **1** a piece of excellent art, e.g. a painting, SCULPTURE, etc. **2** something that can be compared to the best art esp. because of its beauty, detail, etc.: *My new car is a work of art. | This meal is a work of art.*

work·out /ˈwɜːkaʊt‖ˈwɜːr-/ *n infml* a period of physical exercise, e.g. when training for a sport –see also WORK **out** (6)

work·peo·ple /ˈwɜːkˌpiːpəl‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* [P] *BrE* workers who are employed, esp. in a factory

work·place /ˈwɜːkpleɪs‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* [C;*the*+S] the room or building in which workers perform their work: *the enforcement of health and safety precautions at the workplace*

work·room /ˈwɜːkrʊm, -ruːm‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* a room which is specially kept for working in, esp. on a certain sort of work: *a photographic workroom*

works /wɜːks‖wɜːrks/ *n* **works** **1** [*the*+P] the moving parts (of a machine) –see also **a spanner in the works** (SPANNER) **2** [C] (*often in comb.*) an industrial place of work; factory: *a dye works | the works canteen* –see also GASWORKS, WAXWORKS **3** [*the*+P] *infml* everything: *The whole works – rod, line, basket, everything fell into the water. | OK, give me the works.* (=tell me everything) **4 give someone the works** *sl* to attack someone violently, physically, or with words –see also CLERK OF WORKS, PUBLIC WORKS

work·shop /ˈwɜːkʃɒp‖ˈwɜːrkʃɑːp/ *n* **1** a room or area, e.g. in a factory or business, where heavy repairs and jobs on machines are done: *I'll have to send the broken sewing machine away to the workshop.* **2** an occasion when a group of people meet and work together in order to share and develop ideas about a particular subject or activity: *a drama workshop | a two-day workshop on management techniques*

work·shy /ˈ· ·/ *adj derog* not liking work and habitually trying to avoid it

work·sta·tion /ˈwɜːkˌsteɪʃən‖ˈwɜːrk-/ *n* an area in which a single person can work in an office, consisting e.g. of a desk with a small computer that is usu. connected to a large central computer

work-stud·y /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the skill or practice of making work more productive in less time by examining the way things are done by workers and suggesting improvement

work-study pro·gram /ˌ· ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a system of allowing students to work part-time in order to gain experience and earn money

work sur·face /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a worktop

work·top /ˈwɜːktɒp‖ˈwɜːrktɑːp/ ‖ usu. **counter, counter-top** *AmE*– *n* a flat surface on top of a piece of kitchen furniture, used for doing work on, such as preparing a meal –see picture at KITCHEN

work-to-rule /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n BrE* a form of working which reduces activity or production because careful attention is paid to every point in the rules, even when unnecessary, done in order to support a claim for more money, etc. –compare GO-SLOW; see also **work to rule** (WORK²)

world /wɜːld‖wɜːrld/ *n* **1** [*the*] the body in space on which we live; the Earth: *the richest man in the world | the world's tallest building | She has sailed round the world.* (compare *A satellite goes round the Earth.*) | *English is a world language – it is spoken* **all over the world.** (=in many parts of the world) | *a* **world-famous** *musician* (=known all over the world) **2** [C] a PLANET or star system, esp. one which may contain life: *a strange creature from another world* **3** [*the*+S] a group of living things: *the animal world* **4** [*the*+S] a part or area of the world that has a particular character: *the developing world | This country has the lowest taxes in the industrialized world.* **5** [*the*+S] a particular area of human activity: *the world of football|show business | a well-known character in the business world* **6** [*the*+S] people generally; the public: *Keep quiet; we don't want the* **whole world** *to know about it. | The world waited anxiously for the results of the peace talks.* **7** [*the*+S] human life and its affairs: *He's very young and inexperienced, and doesn't know about the* **ways of the world.** | *She has* **brought** *four children* **into the world.** (=given birth to four children) | *a man|woman of the world* (=with plenty of experience of life) **8** [*the*+S] *fml* material standards and principles, rather than those of the spirit: *monks renouncing things of the world* **9** [(*the*) S+**of**] a large number or amount: *There's a world of difference between thinking about it and doing it! | The medicine* **did me a/the world of good.** (=made me feel much better) **10 all the world to** very important to: *My family is|means all the world to me.* **11 for all the world as if/like** exactly as if/like: *He goes around giving orders to everyone, for all the world as if he owns the company!* **12 in the world** (in a question expressing surprise): *Where in the world* (=wherever) *could he be? | What in the world* (=whatever) *are you doing?* **13 not for the world** certainly not: *I wouldn't hurt her for the world.* **14 not long for this world** *euph or humor* about to die **15 out of this world** *infml* unusually good; wonderful **16 worlds apart** completely different: *Their ways of life are worlds apart.* **17 world without end** (in prayers) for ever –see also FREE WORLD, NEW WORLD, OLD WORLD, THIRD WORLD, **best of both worlds/of all possible worlds** (BEST³), **dead to the world** (DEAD¹), **all the world's a stage** (STAGE), **think the world of** (THINK **of**), **on top of the world** (TOP¹)

World Al·ma·nac /ˌ· ˈ···/ *AmE tdmk* any of a number of large books printed yearly in the US by different PUBLISHERS, which give short accounts of the year's news events and also contain much information in many different fields of knowledge such as politics, history, sports, entertainment, prizes, medicine, etc.

World Bank /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**– [*the*] a United Nations organization which lends money for development purposes and gives technical help to governments doing large-scale pieces of work

world-beat·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person or thing that is thought to be able to compete successfully with anyone/anything in the world: *This runner|new invention is a world-beater.*

world-class /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* among the best in the world: *That cricketer is world-class.*

World Coun·cil of Church·es /ˌ· ˌ·· · ˈ··/ [*the*] an international organization of all types of Protestant and certain other churches, with its main offices in Geneva

World Cup /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the most important football competition, which happens every four years and where countries are each represented by their national team: *Brazil won the World Cup | the 1990 World Cup*

world-fa·mous /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* internationally well-known: *a world-famous event|singer | You must know him. He's world-famous.*

World Health Or·gan·i·za·tion /ˌ· ˈ· ···ˌ··/ also **WHO**– [*the*] an international organization, started by the United Nations in 1948, which works to improve the health of people of all nations e.g. by education, by encouraging IMMUNIZATION, etc.

world·ly /ˈwɜːldli‖ˈwɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [A] of the material world: *all my worldly goods* (=everything I own) | *worldly success* **2** *often derog* concerned with or experienced in the ways of society; not SPIRITUAL –opposite **unworldly** – compare OTHERWORLDLY –**-liness** *n* [U]

worldly-wise /ˌ·· ˈ·◂‖ˈ·· ·/ *adj* experienced in the ways of society: *I'm too worldly-wise to expect too much of human nature.*

world mu·sic /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] fashionable music which is not from Europe or the US and which is different in style from Western POP MUSIC. World music includes SALSA, REGGAE and many types of African music.

world pow·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a nation which has great power and influence, and whose trade, politics, etc., have an effect on many other parts of the world

World Se·ries /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ [*the*] a set of games played each year to decide which is the top US BASEBALL team. It is opened by the president of the US, who throws the first ball. – see also BASEBALL and see colour picture on page 950

World Ser·vice /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] see BBC WORLD SERVICE

world·shak·ing /ˈwɜːldˌʃeɪkɪŋ‖ˈwɜːrld-/ *adj* EARTH-SHATTERING

World Trade Cen·ter /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] two buildings in Manhattan, New York City, which were the tallest in the world when they were built in the early 1970s by the New York Port Authority –see colour map on page 1376

world war /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* a war involving many countries in different parts of the world, esp. the 1914–18 and 1939–45 wars –see also FIRST WORLD WAR, SECOND WORLD WAR

World War I /ˌwɜːld wɔː ˈwʌn‖ˌwɜːrld wɔːr-/ see FIRST WORLD WAR

World War II /ˌwɜːld wɔː ˈtuː‖ˌwɜːrld wɔːr-/ see SECOND WORLD WAR

world-wear·y /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* tired of life: *world-weary cynicism* –**-iness** *n* [U]

world·wide /ˌwɜːldˈwaɪd◂‖ˌwɜːr-/ *adj, adv* in or over all the world: *French cheeses are famous worldwide. | cars with a worldwide reputation for reliability*

World Wide Fund for Na·ture /ˌ· · ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] an international organization (CHARITY), formerly called the **World Wildlife Fund**, which raises money for CONSERVATION

worm¹ /wɜːm‖wɜːrm/ *n* **1** a small thin creature with no bones or limbs, like a round tube of flesh, esp. an EARTHWORM: *I accidentally cut a worm in half with my spade. | Many birds eat worms. | This dog has worms.* (=which live inside the body) –see also GLOW-WORM, HOOKWORM, SILKWORM, SLOWWORM, TAPEWORM, WOODWORM **2** *derog* a weak and worthless, cowardly, etc. person: *You miserable worm!* **3** *tech* the curving line round a SCREW¹ (1) **4 even a worm will turn** *BrE saying* even the most quiet and humble person will refuse to allow himself or herself to be treated badly beyond a certain point –see also **can of worms** (CAN²)

worm² *v* [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv|prep*, esp. **into**] **a** to move gradually by twisting or effort: *We wormed our way through the crack in the wall.* **b** *derog* to make (oneself) accepted, gradually and perhaps by dishonest means: *He wormed himself into her affections.* **2** to remove living worms from the body of (e.g. a dog), esp. by chemical means

worm sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**of**)] to obtain by questioning, esp. over a period of time: *We eventually managed to worm the secret out (of her).*

worm cast /ˈ· ·/ *n* a tubelike pile of earth left on the surface of the ground by an EARTHWORM

worm-eat-en /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* **1** full of holes, esp. (of furniture) from WOODWORM **2** *infml derog* old and no longer usable; WORN-OUT

worm gear /ˈ· ·/ also **worm wheel**– *n* a GEAR[1] (1) with an arrangement inside curving round and round

worm-hole /ˈwɜːmhəʊl‖ˈwɜːrm-/ *n* **1** a hole in the ground left by a worm **2** a hole in wood made by WOODWORM

worm-wood /ˈwɜːmwʊd‖ˈwɜːrm-/ *n* [U] a plant with a bitter taste, used in making ABSINTH (=an alcoholic drink) and some medicines

Wormwood Scrubs /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **The Scrubs** *infml*– a prison in W London

worm-y /ˈwɜːmi‖ˈwɜːrmi/ *adj* **1** of or like a worm **2** containing worms: *a wormy apple* **3** with holes made by worms; WORM-EATEN

worn /wɔːn‖wɔːrn/ *past participle of* WEAR

worn-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** completely finished by continued use; no longer usable: *worn-out shoes* **2** [F] very tired: *She was worn-out after three sleepless nights.* –compare OUTWORN

wor-ried /ˈwʌrid‖ˈwɜːrid/ *adj* [(**about**)] experiencing worry; anxious: *a worried look|frown | She seems very worried about something. | We were* **worried sick** (=very worried) *when the children didn't come home.* [F+(*that*)] *They are worried (that) the hijackers will make further demands.* –~**ly** *adv*

wor-ri-some /ˈwʌrisəm‖ˈwɜːri-/ *adj* which troubles one or makes one anxious

wor-ry[1] /ˈwʌri‖ˈwɜːri/ *v* **1** [T] to make anxious or uncomfortable; cause worry to: *The increasingly poor quality of his work is beginning to worry his teachers. | Heights don't worry me. | What worries me most is the possibility of a nuclear accident. | a very worrying situation|new development* **2** [I (**about, over**);T *obj*] to be anxious (about), esp. over a period of time: *Worrying about your health can make you ill. | Don't worry!* [+*wh-*] *Don't worry how much you spend.* (=it doesn't matter) [+*that*] *The teacher worried that the exam might be too difficult for her students. |* (*BrE*) *"I'm afraid I can't come after all." "Ah well,* **not to worry**." (=it doesn't really matter) **3** [T] (esp. of a dog) to chase and bite (an animal): *The dog was found worrying sheep, and had to be shot.* –**-rier** *n* –~**ingly** *adv*

worry at sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to keep attempting to deal with something, using great effort: *She worried at the problem until she found an answer.*

worry[2] *n* **1** [U] an uncomfortable feeling in the mind caused by a mixture of fear and uncertainty; anxiety: *lines of worry on her face* **2** [C] a person or thing that causes this feeling: *It's a worry to me having to leave the children alone in the house. | We have no money worries. | The profit and loss figures have prompted worries over|about the company's future.*

worry beads /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [P] a string of BEADS (= small stones or wooden balls) which are turned over and over in one's hands to keep one calm in a difficult or worrying situation

wor-ry-wart /ˈwʌriwɔːt‖ˈwɜːriwɔːrt/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a person who worries a lot about unimportant things

worse[1] /wɜːs‖wɜːrs/ *adj* **1** (*comparative of* BAD) of lower quality; not as good, pleasant, or satisfactory (as someone or something else): *It wasn't a particularly good performance, although it could have been much|far worse. | He may be late or,* **worse still,** *he may not come at all. | Last year's harvest was bad, but this year's may be even worse. | The car broke down when I was driving home from work, and* **to make matters worse** (=this made the situation even more unpleasant) *it was pouring with rain.* **2** [F] (comparative of **ill**) more ill (than before): *I'm afraid she's getting steadily worse.* **3 none the worse (for)** not harmed (by): *The children got lost in the forest, but seemed none the worse (for it) when they arrived home in the morning.* **4 the worse for wear** spoilt/not improved by time and use or work: *The defeated challenger looked somewhat the worse for wear after the big fight.* **5 worse luck** *BrE infml* unfortunately: *He reached the food before I did, worse luck!* –compare BETTER[1]; see also **go from bad to worse** (BAD[1])

worse[2] *n* [U] something worse: *We thought that the situation was as bad as it could be, but worse was to follow. | I'm afraid there's been a* **change for the worse.** (=a bad change) –compare BETTER[3]

worse[3] *adv* (*comparative of* BADLY) **1** in a worse way: *They said they had fixed the car, but it's now running even worse than before.* **2** to a worse degree: *It's hurting worse than before.* –compare BETTER[2]

▷ USAGE Some people think that **worse** should not be used as an adverb in sentences like *He's behaving* **worse** *this year than last year* and that it is better to say *in a* **worse** *way.*◁

wors-en /ˈwɜːsən‖ˈwɜːr-/ *v* [I;T] to make or become worse; (cause to) DETERIORATE: *The situation|crisis has worsened. | The rain has worsened our difficulties. | the worsening economic crisis* –compare BETTER[4] (1)

wor-ship[1] /ˈwɜːʃɪp‖ˈwɜːr-/ *n* [U] **1** strong usu. religious feelings of love, respect, and admiration, esp. when shown to God or a god: *They bowed their heads in worship. | Some societies practise ancestor worship.* **2** the act of showing this: *They joined together in worship.* **3** a religious service: *They attended divine worship.* –see also HERO WORSHIP

worship[2] *v BrE* **-pp-**‖**-p-** *AmE* **1** [I;T] to show worship or great honour (to): *His followers* **worshipped at his feet. |** *Let us bow down and worship God. |* (fig.) *She worships her elder brother|***worships the ground he walks on.** (=admires him (too) greatly) **2** [I] to attend a church service: *We worship regularly at that church.* –~**per** *n*

Worship *n esp. BrE* (used as a title for addressing or speaking of certain officials, esp. a MAYOR or a MAGISTRATE): *Good morning,* **Your Worship.** *| Pray silence for* **His Worship** *the mayor of Brighton!*

wor-ship-ful /ˈwɜːʃɪpfəl‖ˈwɜːr-/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* (used as a respectful form of address): *the Worshipful Mayor of Brighton | the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths*

worst[1] /wɜːst‖wɜːrst/ *adj* (*superlative of* BAD) more bad, unpleasant, or unsatisfactory than anyone or anything else: *the worst airline disaster in history | It was the worst winter for 50 years. | a criminal of the worst kind | Who* **came off worst** (=was defeated) *in the argument?*

worst[2] *n* **worst 1** [*the*+C] the most bad person, thing, state, or part: *I've seen bad work, but this is the worst. | The worst of it is that I could have prevented the accident if I had got there five minutes earlier. | to expect|fear|be prepared for the worst | The worst of the winter is probably over now.* **2 at (the) worst** if one thinks of it in the worst way: *He's a fool at (the) best, and at (the) worst he's a criminal.* **3 do one's worst** to do as much harm as one can (esp. suggesting that very little harm can be done): *We've harvested all the crops, so now the weather can do its worst.* **4 get the worst of (it)** to be defeated **5 if the worst comes to the worst** if the worst possible situation actually happens; if there is no better way: *If the worst comes to the worst, we can always go by bus tomorrow.*

worst[3] *adv* (*superlative of* BADLY) most badly: *The others weren't very good but she played (the) worst of anybody.* (=worse than all the rest) *| It's the old and the poor who suffer worst when subsidies are cut. | the worst-dressed man in the office*

worst[4] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *old use* to defeat: *We were worsted in battle.*

worst case sce-na-ri-o /ˌ· ˈ· ·ˌ···/ *n* a situation under consideration in which the worst possible events may happen

wor-sted /ˈwʊstɪd/ *n* [U] wool cloth: *a worsted suit*

worth[1] /wɜːθ‖wɜːrθ/ *prep* (esp. after **be**) **1** having the stated value: *It's worth much more than I paid for it. | a piece of land worth £44,500 | How much is your car worth? | The agreement wasn't* **worth the paper it was written on.** (=was completely worthless) **2** having possessions of the stated value: *She's worth at least $1,000,000.* **3** deserving of: *We may not succeed, but it's worth a try.* [+*v-ing*] *It isn't worth waiting for him. | The food's not worth eating. | It's well worth making the effort to learn how to do it. | It's such a minor detail that it's hardly worth mentioning.* **4 for all one is worth** with all possible effort: *He tried and tried for all he was worth, but it still wouldn't work.* **5 for what it's worth** though I'm not sure it's of value: *Here's the article I promised you, for what it's worth.* –compare **such as it is/they are** (SUCH[1]) **6 not worth the candle** *infml, esp. BrE* not worth the

effort **7 worth it** useful; worth the trouble: *Don't lock the door; it isn't worth it.* **8 worth one's salt** *infml* worthy of respect or of being so called: *No poet worth his salt would have used a terrible rhyme like that.* **9 worth one's/someone's while** worthwhile to one/someone: *If you'll tell me when the night watchman will be off duty, I'll* **make it worth your while.** (=pay you)

worth² *n* [U] value: *jewels of great worth | After his unkindness, I know the true worth of his friendship.* (=it is worthless) | *The storm did thousands of pounds' worth of damage.* (=did damage worth thousands of pounds)

worth·less /ˈwɜːθləs‖ˈwɜːrθ-/ *adj* **1** of no value: *The jewels he sold us turned out to be completely worthless.* —see VALUABLE (USAGE) **2** (of a person) of bad character; with no good qualities: *a worthless member of society* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

worth·while /ˌwɜːθˈwaɪl◂‖ˌwɜːrθ-/ *adj* deserving the effort needed, the time or money spent, etc.: *a worthwhile charity to contribute to | We had a long wait, but it was worthwhile because we got the tickets.*

wor·thy¹ /ˈwɜːði‖ˈwɜːrði/ *adj* **1** [A] deserving respect or serious consideration: *a worthy opponent | worthy aims | She proved herself a worthy successor to the former champion.* **2** [F+**of**/*to-v*] deserving: *worthy of admiration | a performance worthy to be remembered* **3** *derog* having honourable and valuable qualities, but often not very exciting or interesting: *a worthy man* **4 -worthy** deserving: *blameworthy | praiseworthy | The bank didn't consider him creditworthy because he was very irresponsible with money.* **—-thily** *adv* **—-thiness** *n* [U]

worthy² *n, fml, sometimes humor* a person of importance: *local worthies*

wot /wɒt‖wɑːt/ *v* **-tt-** [I (**of**)] *BrE old use or humor* to know: *other times and places which we wot not of*

wot·cher /ˈwɒtʃəʳ‖ˈwɑː-/ *interj BrE old-fash sl* (esp. in southeastern England) HELLO

would /wʊd/ *v 3rd person sing.* **would**, *short form,* **'d**, *negative short form* **wouldn't** [*modal+to-v*] **1 a** (used instead of **will** to describe what someone has said, asked, etc.): *They said they would|they'd meet us at 10.30.* (their actual words were: *"We will meet you at 10.30."*) | *I knew she would be annoyed.* **b** (used instead of **will** with a past tense verb or when showing what is likely or possible): *I'd be surprised if he came. | Any fall in the price of oil would have serious consequences for our economy. | What would you do if you won a million pounds? | They couldn't find any one who would* (=was willing to) *take the job. | He said there had been a serious accident, but wouldn't give* (=refused to give) *any details.* **2 a** (shows what always happened): *We used to work in the same office and we would often have coffee together.* **b** (shows that one is annoyed at something that always happens or is typical): *That's exactly like him — he* would *lose the key!* **3 would rather** (expressing a choice): *Which would you rather do, go to the cinema or stay at home? | I'd rather not say what I think. | I'd rather you didn't tell him.* **4 would that** *fml or lit* (expressing a strong wish) if only ... : *Would that we had seen her before she died.* **5 would you** (expressing a polite request): *Would you please lend me your pencil? | Shut the door, would you?* —see LIKE (USAGE), NOT (USAGE), SHOULD (USAGE), USE (USAGE)

would-be /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] which one wants or intends to be, but is not: *a would-be musician | She managed to escape from her would-be attacker.* —compare WANNABE

would·n't /ˈwʊdnt/ *short for:* would not

wouldst /wʊdst/ **thou wouldst** *old use or bibl* (when talking to one person) you would

wound¹ /waʊnd/ *past tense & participle of* WIND³,⁵

wound² /wuːnd/ *n* [(**in**)] a damaged place in the body, usu. a hole or tear through the skin, esp. one made intentionally by a weapon, such as a gun or knife: *The president received|sustained a serious stomach wound|a serious wound in the stomach. | It's only a flesh wound.* (=not deep) | *a bullet wound | The wound is healing fast.* | (fig.) *You'll only* **open old wounds** (=remind someone of an unpleasant and hurtful experience, situation, etc.) *if you bring up that subject.* | (fig.) *a wound to her pride* —see also **rub salt into the/someone's wound(s)** (RUB¹)

wound³ /wuːnd/ *v* [T] to cause a wound to: *The bullet wounded his arm. | He wounded her in the arm. | Was he seriously|badly wounded?*

▷ USAGE Compare **wound, injure,** and **hurt** when used of bodily damage. You can be **wounded** or receive a **wound** from any attack in which a gun or sharp instrument such as a sword or knife is used. You can be **injured** or receive an **injury, a** when any other weapon such as a heavy stick or bomb is used, **b** in an accident: *He was seriously* **injured** *in a car crash.* Both **wound** and **injure** are more serious than **hurt:** *She slipped and* **hurt** *her knee.*◁

wound·ed /ˈwuːndɨd/ *adj* hurt; suffering from a wound: *wounded survivors* [(also *n, the*+P)] *The wounded were taken off to hospital.* | (fig.) *wounded pride*

Wounded Knee /ˌ·· ˈ·/, **Battle of** the last big battle against the Native Americans, in 1890, at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, in which American soldiers killed nearly 200 Sioux, including women and children

wound-up /ˌwaʊnd ˈʌp◂/ *adj* anxiously excited

wove /wəʊv/ *past tense of* WEAVE

wov·en /ˈwəʊvən/ *past participle of* WEAVE

wow¹ /waʊ/ *interj infml* (an expression of surprise and admiration): *Wow! What a fantastic dress!*

wow² *n* [S] *sl* a great success

wow³ *v* [T] *sl* to cause surprise and admiration in (someone): *His new show really wowed the critics.*

wow⁴ *n* [U] faulty rising and falling sounds in a machine for playing recorded sound, caused by an uneveness in the speed of the motor —compare FLUTTER² (5a)

WP /ˌdʌbəljuː ˈpiː/ *abbrev. for:* word processing; word processor

WPC /ˌdʌbəljuː piː ˈsiː/ *n BrE* Woman Police Constable; a female member of the police force having the lowest rank. Since 1990 British police forces have stopped using this title: *W.P.C. Jenkins | Two W.P.Cs were attacked.* — see also P.C.

WRAC /ræk/ [(*the*)] Women's Royal Army Corps; a women's branch of the British Army

wrack¹ /ræk/ *n* [U] RACK³,⁴

wrack² *n* [U] a type of SEAWEED

WRAF /ræf/ [(*the*)] Women's Royal Air Force; the women's branch of the British Royal Air Force

wraith /reɪθ/ *n lit* an exact image of a person, esp. seen just before or just after their death

wran·gle¹ /ˈræŋgəl/ *v* [I (**with, over**)] to argue, esp. angrily, noisily, and over a long period

wrangle² *n* an angry or noisy argument, esp. one that continues for a long time: *We are involved in another wrangle with the management over our pay.*

wran·gler /ˈræŋgləʳ/ *n* **1** a person who wrangles or is wrangling **2** *AmE* a COWBOY, esp. one who looks after horses

Wrangler *tdmk* a company which makes JEANS which are widely sold in Britain and the US, and are called **Wranglers**: *a pair of Wranglers | Wrangler jeans*

wrap¹ /ræp/ *v* **-pp-** [T] **1** [(UP, **in**)] to cover (something) in a material folded around: *I put the book in a box and wrapped it up in brown paper before I posted it. | The shop assistant offered to wrap the shoes, but I wanted to wear them at once.* | (fig.) *He wrapped* (=hid) *his meaning in a lot of pseudo-scientific jargon.* —see also GIFT-WRAP **2** [+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **(a)round**] to fold (a material) over: *I wrapped the rug around the sick man's legs to keep him warm. | She had a bandage wrapped round her finger.*

wrap up *phr v* **1** [I] to wear warm clothes: *Wrap up well — it's cold outside!* **2** [T] (**wrap** sthg. ↔ **up**) *infml* to complete (a business arrangement, a meeting, etc.): *Now the trade agreement is wrapped up all we have to do is wait for the first orders.* **3** [I *usu. imperative*] *infml* to be quiet; SHUT **up** **4 wrapped up in** giving all one's love or attention to: *She's so wrapped up in him she can't see his faults.| wrapped up in one's own thoughts*

wrap² *n* **1** *esp. AmE* a garment which is used as a covering, esp. round a woman's shoulders **2 under wraps** *infml* kept secret from the public: *The plans for the new space mission are still under wraps.*

wrap·per /ˈræpəʳ/ *n* a piece of paper which forms a loose cover: *a book's wrapper*

wrap·ping /ˈræpɪŋ/ also **wrappings** *pl.*— *n* [C;U] material used for folding round and covering something: *I undid the wrapping(s) and looked inside.*

wrapping pa·per /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] paper, usu. covered in attractive patterns, for wrapping presents

wrath /rɒθ‖ræθ/ *n* [U] *fml or lit* strong fierce anger esp. based on the desire to punish someone for harm done to oneself: *the wrath of God* | *Management incurred the wrath of the union by breaking the agreement.* —~**ful** *adj* —~**fully** *adv*

Wray /reɪ/, **Fay** (1907–) an American film actress famous esp. for appearing in the film *King Kong*

wreak /riːk/ *v* [T (**on**)] *esp. lit* to do (violence) or express (strong feelings) violently: *We shall wreak a terrible vengeance on our enemies.* | *These floods are* **wreaking havoc** (=causing destruction and confusion) *in low-lying areas.*

wreath /riːθ/ *n* **wreaths** /riːðz, riːθs/ **1** an arrangement of flowers or leaves, esp. in a circle, such as one given at a funeral or hung on the front door at Christmas in celebration of the season: *She laid a wreath on his grave.* **2** a circle of leaves or flowers placed on the head or round the neck of someone to honour them: *a laurel wreath* **3** [(**of**)] *esp. lit* a curl of smoke, mist, gas, etc.

wreathe /riːð/ *v esp. lit* **1** [T] to circle round and cover completely: *Mist wreathed the hilltops.* | (fig.) *Her face was* **wreathed in smiles.** (=She was smiling very happily) **2** [I+*adv/prep*] (of smoke, mist, gas, etc.) to move gently in circles: *The fog wreathed round the street light.*

wreck[1] /rek/ *n* **1** [C] a ship lost at sea or (partly) destroyed on rocks: *the wreck of an old Spanish galleon* | *Divers have found a hoard of gold in the wreck.* —see also SHIPWRECK **2** [U] the state of being ruined or destroyed: *the wreck of all her hopes* **3** [C] *infml* something ruined or (partly) destroyed: *Have you seen that old wreck he drives around in!* **4** [C] a person whose health or spirits have been destroyed: *He's been a complete wreck since his illness.* | *This job is turning me into a* **nervous wreck.**

wreck[2] *v* [T] **1** [*often pass.*; *not in progressive forms*] **a** to cause (a ship) to be destroyed: *The ship was wrecked on the rocks.* **b** to cause (the people on a ship) to be in a SHIPWRECK: *We were wrecked off the coast of Africa.* **2** to bring to a ruined or unusable state; destroy: *The weather has completely wrecked our plans.*

wreck·age /ˈrekɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the broken parts of a destroyed thing: *The wreckage of the aircraft was spread over a five-mile area.* | (fig.) *trying to put together the wreckage of my life/of our marriage*

wreck·er /ˈrekəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who destroys, esp. (in former times) one who tried to cause a ship to be caught on rocks in order to be able to steal from it **2** a person whose job is to bring out goods from ships which have been wrecked, so that they will not be lost **3** *AmE* a vehicle used for moving other vehicles when these have stopped working, or after accidents

wren /ren/ *n* a very small brown European and North American bird

Wren[1] *n infml* a member of the WRNS

Wren[2], **Sir Chris·to·pher** /ˈkrɪstəfəʳ/ (1632–1723) an English ARCHITECT who built many churches in London, including St Paul's Cathedral, and other buildings in Britain such as the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford

St. Paul's Cathedral



wrench[1] /rentʃ/ *v* [T] **1** [+*obj* +*adv/prep*] to pull hard and often violently with a twisting or turning movement: *He wrenched the gun from/out of her hands.* | *I wrenched the door open.* | *She wrenched the lid off.* **2** to twist and damage (a joint of the body): *I fell and wrenched my ankle.* **3** to cause great suffering of the mind or very painful feelings: *a heart-wrenching story*

wrench[2] *n* **1** an act of twisting and pulling something hard and perhaps violently **2** damage to a joint of the body by twisting: *I've given my knee a bad wrench.* **3** [*usu. sing.*] something, esp. a separation, that causes great suffering of the mind or very painful feelings: *the wrench of leaving one's family* **4 a** also **monkey wrench** *AmE for* SPANNER **b** *BrE* a SPANNER with jaws that can be moved so as to be close together or far apart —see picture at TOOL

wrest /rest/ *v* [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*, esp. **from, out of**] **1** to pull (away) violently: *He wrested it from her hands.* **2** *esp. lit* to obtain with difficulty: *We wrested victory from the jaws of defeat.* | *The farmers in this area have to struggle to wrest a living from the infertile soil.*

wres·tle /ˈresəl/ *v* [I (**with**);T] **1** to fight by trying to hold or throw one's opponent: *She wrestled with her attacker.* | *She wrestled him to the ground.* | (fig.) *wrestling with a difficult examination paper* **2** to fight (someone) like this as a sport (**wrestling**) —compare BOX[3] (1) —**-tler** *n*

wres·tling /ˈreslɪŋ/ *n* [U] a sport in which two people fight in a ring, trying to hold or throw each other against the ropes or onto the floor. In Britain it is thought of as a working-class sport. Because the winners have often been secretly agreed on before the MATCHes, the sport is treated as entertainment rather than a real competition.

wretch /retʃ/ *n* **1** an unfortunate or unhappy person: *poor homeless wretches* **2** *often humor* a bad or useless person: *You wretch! You're late again.*

wretch·ed /ˈretʃɪd/ *adj* **1 a** very unhappy; in very low spirits: *He's in bed with a bad cold, feeling pretty wretched.* | *I feel wretched about having to disappoint her.* **b** causing unhappiness, discomfort, etc.: *a wretched life/headache* **2** extremely bad: *What wretched weather!* **3** [A] (used to express annoyance): *I can't find my wretched keys.* | *Why can't that wretched child behave himself?* **4 wretched refuse** *quote* a phrase taken from the words written on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor —see STATUE OF LIBERTY —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

wrig·gle[1] /ˈrɪgəl/ *v* **1** [I] to twist from side to side with short quick movements, either in one place or when moving along: *He wriggled uncomfortably on the hard chair.* | (fig.) *The prosecution have got a pretty strong case against him – he'll be lucky to wriggle free this time!* **2** [T] to move (a part of the body) in this way; WIGGLE: *Wriggle your toes.*

wriggle out of sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to escape (a difficult situation or responsibility) by clever tricks, by pretending, etc.: *You know you're to blame, so don't try to wriggle out of it.* [+*v-ing*] *I'd hoped to wriggle out of telling her.*

wriggle[2] *n* a wriggling movement

Wright[1] /raɪt/, **Frank Lloyd** (1869–1959) an American ARCHITECT known for his use of modern materials and methods, in buildings such as the Guggenheim Museum in New York

Wright[2], **Or·ville** /ˈɔːvɪl ‖ ˈɔːr-/ (1871–1948) an American AVIATOR who worked with his brother **Wilbur Wright** (1867–1912) building GLIDERS and other aircraft. The **Wright Brothers** are famous for making the first powered flight in their aircraft in 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Wright[3], **Peter** (1917–) an English INTELLIGENCE AGENT who became famous for writing a book called *Spycatcher* in 1987 about the secret service. The British government tried to stop PUBLICATION of the book but were unsuccessful. —see also SPYCATCHER

Wrig·leys /ˈrɪgliz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of CHEWING GUM made by the firm of Wrigley

wring /rɪŋ/ *v* **wrung** /rʌŋ/ [T] **1 a** to twist (esp. the neck, causing death): *to kill a chicken by wringing its neck* | (*humor*) *I'll wring your neck if you don't behave!* **b** to press hard on (esp. a person's hand): *He wrung my hand warmly.* (=when shaking hands in greeting) | *It's no use wringing your hands in sorrow.* | (fig.) *The baby's sufferings* **wrung** *its mother's* **heart.** (=made her extremely unhappy) **2** [(OUT, **from**)] to twist and/or press (wet clothes) to remove water, or to remove (water) by doing this: *Wring those wet things out.* | (fig.) *Her torturers wrung the truth out of her in the end.* **3 wringing wet** extremely wet, so that a lot of water can be pressed out

wring·er /ˈrɪŋəʳ/ *n* a machine, often part of a WASHING MACHINE, with ROLLERS (=tube-shaped parts) which press water from clothes, sheets, etc. that are passed through them —compare MANGLE[2]

wrin·kle[1] /ˈrɪŋkəl/ *n* **1** a small line or fold, esp. on the skin owing to age, worry, tiredness, etc.: *wrinkles round her eyes* | *wrinkled stockings* —compare CRINKLE[2] **2** *infml* a useful suggestion or trick: *Ask him; he knows all the wrinkles.* (=knows the best ways of doing something) —**-kly** *adj*

wrinkle[2] *v* **1** [T (UP)] to cause to form into lines, folds, etc., esp. for a short time: *She wrinkled her nose at the bad smell.* **2** [I] (esp. of the skin) to form into lines, folds, etc.: *The skin round her eyes wrinkled when she smiled.*

wrink·ly /ˈrɪŋkli/ *n* **-ies** *infml derog* a young person's name for an old or older person

wrist /rɪst/ *n* the joint between the hand and the lower part of the arm —see also LIMP-WRISTED, and see picture at HAND

wrist·band /ˈrɪstbænd/ *n* **1** a loose CUFF **2** a band used for fastening something, such as a watch, to the wrist

wrist·let /ˈrɪstlɨt/ *n* a band worn round the wrist

wrist·watch /ˈrɪstwɒtʃ‖-wɑːtʃ, -wɔːtʃ/ *n* a watch made to be fastened on the wrist with a STRAP (=band) of metal or leather or other material

wrist·y /ˈrɪsti/ *adj apprec* (esp. in sport) having or showing strong movement of the wrist: *a wristy player|stroke*

writ[1] /rɪt/ *n* an official legal paper telling someone to do or not to do a particular thing: *The High Court has issued a writ forbidding her to communicate with him.* | *a writ of habeas corpus* —see also HOLY WRIT

writ[2] *adj* **writ large** *esp. lit or pomp* made more clearly noticeable; on a larger or grander scale

write /raɪt/ *v* **wrote** /rəʊt/, **written** /ˈrɪtn/ **1** [I;T] to make (marks that represent letters or words) by using a tool held in the hand, esp. with a pen or pencil on paper: *The children are learning to write.* | *She always writes with a pen|writes in ink.* | *Write the address on the envelope.* —compare DRAW[1] (1) **2** [T] to think of and record, esp. on paper; be the AUTHOR of: *to write a letter* | *Have you finished writing that report yet?* | *Charlotte Brontë wrote "Jane Eyre".* | *Elgar wrote two symphonies.* | *to write a computer program* | *a written statement* **3** [T] to make or complete (something) by putting words on it: [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *He wrote me a cheque for £15.* **4** [I] to be a writer of books, plays, etc.: *He writes for the stage.* **5** [I;T (**to**)] to produce and send (a letter): *She writes to me every day.* | *I wish you'd write more often.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *He writes me a letter every day|He writes a letter to me every day.* [+*v-ing*] *He wrote asking me to come.* [+*to-v*] *He wrote to ask me to come.* [+*that*] *He wrote that he'd be coming on Tuesday.* **6** [T] *esp. AmE* to produce and send a letter to (someone): *He writes me every day.* [+*obj*+*that*] *George wrote me that he couldn't come.* **7 be written on/all over** to be clearly showing because of the expression on: *Guilt was written all over his face.* **8 nothing to write home about** *infml* nothing special; not as good as it might be: *The food here isn't anything to write home about.* (=isn't very good)

write away *phr v* [I (**for**)] to WRITE **off** (3)

write back *phr v* [I] to reply in a letter: *I received his letter two weeks ago, but I forgot to write back.* [+*v-ing*|*to-v*|*that*] *She wrote back (saying|to say) that she couldn't come.*

write sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to record in writing, esp. in order to remember: *Write your idea down while it's clear in your mind.* | *to write down a telephone number*

write in *phr v* **1** [I (**for**)] to send a letter to a firm, asking for something or giving an opinion: *We wrote in for a free book, but the firm never replied.* **2** [T] (**write** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **in**) *AmE* **a** to vote for (someone) by writing their name on the voting paper **b** to add (a name) to a list in an election —see also WRITE-IN

write off *phr v* **1** [T (**as**)] (**write** sthg. ↔ **off**) to accept as lost, useless, or as a failure: *I may have been beaten in this fight, but don't write me off yet — I'll be back!* | *She'd been written off as a failure at the age of eleven.* **2** [T] (**write** sthg. ↔ **off**) to remove (esp. a debt) from the records or accounts; CANCEL: *The company has written off £2m of the development costs of this project.* **3** [I (**for**)] to send a letter to a distant place, esp. in order to buy something one cannot get near home: *She wrote off for the book because the local shop didn't have it.* **4** [T] (**write** sthg. ↔ **off**) *esp. BrE* ‖ **total** sthg. *AmE* to damage (esp. a car) so badly that it cannot be repaired —see also WRITE-OFF

write sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to write in full: *The policeman was writing out his report.* | *Do it in rough before you write it out properly.* **2** to write (something formal): [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Shall I write you out a receipt, sir?* **3** [(**of**)] to remove (a character) from a continuing set of stories or plays: *When the actor died, the character he played in the soap opera had to be written out.*

write up *phr v* **1** [T] (=**write** sthg. **up**) to write (again) in a complete and useful form: *I'm going to write up my notes.* **2** [T] (**write** sthg. ↔ **up**) to write a report on (goods, a play, an event, etc.), esp. giving a judgment: *I see they've written our play up in the local newspaper.* —see also WRITE-UP

write-in /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a vote given by writing the name of the person voted for —see also WRITE **in** (2)

write-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* something which has been so badly damaged that it cannot be repaired: *The car was a write-off after the accident.* **2** something, esp. a debt, that has been removed from the records or accounts — see also WRITE **off**

writ·er /ˈraɪtəʳ/ *n* a person who writes, esp. as a way of earning money; AUTHOR: *He is a writer but he doesn't make enough money to live from his books.* | *a software writer* | *a sports writer* | *one of the President's speech writers*

writer's cramp /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] stiffness of the hand after writing for a long time

write-up /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a written report, esp. one that describes and gives a judgment about goods, a play, etc.: *The concert got a good write-up in the local newspaper.* —see also WRITE **up** (2)

writhe /raɪð/ *v* [I] to twist the body (as if) in great pain: *He was writhing on the ground in agony.*

writ·ing /ˈraɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** handwriting: *I can't read the doctor's writing.* **2** written work or form: *a piece of writing* | *You say you'll lend us the money; can I have that* **in writing?** (=in written form, so as to make it official) **3** the activity of writing, esp. books: *Writing is his life.* **4 the writing is on the wall** a business or an organization will not continue to exist for much longer: *With the current poor economic climate, the writing is on the wall for many companies.* —see also WRITINGS

writing desk /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a desk, esp. with a place for writing materials such as paper and pens

writing pa·per /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **notepaper**— *n* [U] paper for writing letters on, usu. smooth and of quite good quality, which can be bought in various standard sizes

writ·ings /ˈraɪtɪŋz/ *n* [P] works of literature or other written material, produced by the stated person: *Darwin's scientific writings*

writ·ten /ˈrɪtn/ *past participle of* WRITE: *a written request*

WRNS /ˌdʌbəljuː ɑːr en ˈes/ [*the* +*sing./pl. v*] Women's Royal Naval Service; the women's branch of the British Royal Navy

wrong[1] /rɒŋ‖rɔːŋ/ *adj* **1** not correct; not in accordance with the facts or the truth: *This sum is wrong.* | *the wrong answer* | *You're doing it the wrong way.* | *We must be on the wrong road.* | *No, you're wrong; she didn't say that.* | *The clock's wrong; it's 2 o'clock, not 3 o'clock.* **2** [F] **a** evil; against moral standards: *Telling lies is wrong.* **b** against correct socially acceptable behaviour: [+*to-v*] *You were wrong not to have mentioned it.* **3** [F (**with**)] not satisfactory in condition, health, results, working, etc.: *You look upset; is anything wrong?* | *The car won't start. What's wrong with it?* (=What is the problem/trouble?) | *The baby won't stop crying — I hope there's nothing wrong with him.* (=I hope he is not ill) **4** not suitable: *This is the wrong time to make a visit.* | *He's a good actor, but this is the wrong part for him.* | *We got on the wrong bus* (=not the one we intended to catch) *by mistake.* **5 get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick** *infml* to misunderstand **6 on/from the wrong side of the tracks** *esp. AmE* in/from the less respectable part of a town or society, esp. (the part lived in by) poor people **7 on the wrong foot** unprepared: *I'm afraid you rather* **caught me on the wrong foot**, *asking for it at such short notice.* —opposite **right** (for 1, 2, 4); see also **get out of bed on the wrong side** (BED) —~**ly** *adv* : *We believe he was wrongly convicted of the murder.* (=he was not guilty) | *They believe,* **rightly or wrongly** (=whether or not they are right to believe this) *that they have been badly treated.*

wrong[2] *adv* **1** wrongly: *You've spelt the word wrong.* **2 get it/someone wrong** to misunderstand something/someone: *Don't get me wrong; I'm not really criticizing you, but ...* **3 go wrong: a** to make a mistake, e.g. in following a path or method: *The sum hasn't worked out, but I can't see where I went wrong.* **b** to begin to fail or experience trouble: *The party was going well until my*

parents arrived, then everything went wrong. **c** to stop working properly: *The car's gone wrong.* | *Something's* **gone wrong with** *the car.* **d** *old-fash* to act badly, immorally, etc.: *I'm not surprised she's gone wrong after mixing with such bad company.*

wrong[3] *n* **1** [U] action or behaviour that is not morally right or correct: *She's too young to know right from wrong.* | *She seems to think he* **can do no wrong.** **2** [C] *fml* a seriously bad or unjust action: *There are rights and wrongs on both sides of the dispute.* | *Two wrongs do not make a right.* (proverb) **3 in the wrong** mistaken or deserving blame: *Which of the two drivers was in the wrong?* –opposite **in the right**

▷ USAGE Compare **wrong** and **fault. Wrong** is a formal word for a particular bad or unjust act: *He committed a great* **wrong. Fault** is used, **a** of something bad in a person's character: *One of his* **faults** *is that he's always late,* **b** of a person's responsibility for bad results: *It's your* **fault** *we lost the watch.*◁

wrong[4] *v* [T] to be unfair to or cause difficulty, suffering, etc., to: *I wronged him by|in saying he had lied.* (=because he had not)

wrong·do·ing /ˈrɒŋˌduːɪŋ‖ˌrɔːŋˈduːɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) bad, evil, or illegal behaviour: *They found no evidence of wrongdoing.* | *to commit a wrongdoing* –**-er** *n*

wrong-foot /ˌ· ˈ·/ *vb* [T] **1** (in tennis, etc.) to play in a way that causes (one's opponent) to move in the wrong direction and lose their balance **2** to surprise (someone) into a disadvantageous position: *The prime minister was unexpectedly wrong-footed during yesterday's debate when the opposition parties produced evidence of a cover-up.*

wrong·ful /ˈrɒŋfəl‖ˈrɔːŋ-/ *adj* **1** unjust: *wrongful dismissal from a job* **2** illegal: *wrongful imprisonment* –~**ly** *adv*

wrong·head·ed /ˌrɒŋˈhedɨd◂‖ˌrɔːŋ-/ *adj* **1** *derog* sticking in a determined way to a wrong idea or course of action: *wrongheaded students who think they can cure the world's evils by destroying society* **2** mistaken: *a wrongheaded idea* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

wrote /rəʊt/ *past tense of* WRITE

wroth /rɒθ‖rɔːθ/ *adj* [F] *old use, bibl, or poet* very angry

wrought /rɔːt/ *adj* [**(of)**] *old use or lit* made or done: *carefully wrought works of literature* | *wrought by hand* | *wrought of stone*

wrought i·ron /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *n* [U] iron shaped into a useful form or pleasing pattern: *a wrought-iron gate*

wrought-up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* very nervous and excited – compare OVERWROUGHT

wrung /rʌŋ/ *past tense & participle of* WRING

WRVS /ˌdʌbəljuː ɑː viː ˈes ‖ -ɑːr-/ [*the* +*sing./pl. v*] Women's Royal Voluntary Service; a voluntary organization of women who help others less able to look after themselves, esp. known for their "Meals on Wheels" travelling food service to the ill and old

wry /raɪ/ *adj* (esp. of an expression on the face) showing a mixture of amusement and displeasure, dislike, or disbelief: *a wry smile|wry humour* –~**ly** *adv*

wt *written abbrev. for:* weight

Wu-hsien, Wuxian /ˌwuːˈsjen/ see SUZHOU

wuss /wʊs/ *n AmE, sl, derog* a weak or useless person; WIMP

Wuth·er·ing Heights /ˌwʌðərɪŋ ˈhaɪts/ a NOVEL by Emily Brontë. It is a ROMANTIC and sad love story, set on the Yorkshire Moors, about the love between the two main characters, Catherine and Heathcliffe. –see colour picture on page 1145

WV *written abbrev. for:* WEST VIRGINIA

WWF /ˌdʌbəljuː dʌbəljuː ˈef/ *n* [(*the*) U] *abbrev. for:* WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE

WW I *written abbrev. for:* World War I, the FIRST WORLD WAR

WW II *written abbrev. for:* World War II, the SECOND WORLD WAR

WY *written abbrev. for:* WYOMING

Wych·er·ley /ˈwɪtʃəli‖-ər-/, **William** (1640–1716) an English writer of RESTORATION plays including *The Country Wife*

wych-ha·zel /ˈwɪtʃ ˌheɪzəl/ *n* [C;U] WITCH-HAZEL

Wyc·liffe /ˈwɪklɪf/, **John** (1328?–84) an English religious reformer (REFORM) who believed that the Bible, not the church, was the true authority, and worked on translating the Bible into English

Wye /waɪ/ *n* [*the*] a river in Wales and England

Wy·eth /ˈwaɪəθ/, **Andrew** (1917–) an American painter whose best known picture is *Christina's World.* His son **Jamie** is also a painter.

Wyke·ham·ist /ˈwɪkəmɨst/ *n* a pupil or former pupil of Winchester College

Wynd·ham /ˈwɪndəm/, **John** (1903–69) an English writer of SCIENCE FICTION books, including *The Day of the Triffids* and *The Midwich Cuckoos*

Wy·nette /wɪˈnet/, **Tam·my** /ˈtæmi/ (1942–) an American popular music singer whose many songs include *Stand by Your Man* and *D-I-V-O-R-C-E*

Wy·o·ming /waɪˈəʊmɪŋ/ *written abbrev.* **WY**– a US state in the Rocky Mountains with the smallest population of any state. It produces minerals and wool. –see colour map on pages 1374–5

WYSIWYG /ˈwɪziwɪg/ *adj* What You See Is What You Get; of a computer system where what is printed out is exactly what is shown on the SCREEN

Wyss /waɪs/, **Jo·hann** /ˈjəʊhæn ‖ -hɑːn/ (1743–1818) a Swiss writer best known for his very popular children's book *The Swiss Family Robinson*

wy·vern /ˈwaɪvən‖-ərn/ *n* an imaginary animal that looks like a two-legged winged DRAGON

X

X, x /eks/ **X's, x's** *or* **Xs, xs** **1** the 24th letter of the English alphabet **2** the ROMAN NUMERAL (number) for 10 **3** (a mark written esp. on a letter or card, meaning) a kiss **4 X marks the spot** a phrase that appears, in stories about PIRATES, on maps showing where TREASURE is buried

x *n* [U] (in MATHEMATICS) a quantity that is unknown until a calculation has been made: *If 3x=6, x=2.* —see picture at EQUATION

X *n* a person or thing whose name is not made known to the public: *At the trial, Mrs X, one of the witnesses, was allowed to keep her face covered.* | *ingredient X*

Xan·a·du /ˈzænədu:/ an unreal place of wonderful beauty (from the name of a place in the poem *Kubla Khan* by S T Coleridge)

X-cer·tif·i·cate /ˈeks səˌtɪfɪkət‖-sər-/ *adj* X-RATED

X chro·mo·some /ˈeks ˌkrəʊməsəʊm/ *n* a CHROMOSOME which exists in pairs in female cells and singly in male cells, and which, after union of male and female, will produce a female when combined with another of its own type, and a male when combined with a Y CHROMOSOME

xen·on /ˈzenɒn‖ˈzi:nɑ:n, ˈze-/ *n* [U] a rare gas sometimes used in photography to produce short flashes of light

xen·o·pho·bi·a /ˌzenəˈfəʊbiə/ *n* [U] unreasonable fear and dislike of strange or foreign people, customs, etc. – compare RACISM —**-phobic** *adj*

Xen·o·phon /ˈzenəfən, -fɒn‖-fɑ:n/ (about 430–355 BC) a Greek HISTORIAN whose most famous work, the *Anabasis*, told the story of the RETREAT after the battle of Cunaxa, in which he took part

xe·rox /ˈzɪərɒks, ˈze-‖ˈzɪərɑ:ks, ˈzi:-/ *v, n* [T] *tdmk* (*often cap.*) (to make) a photographic copy of (printed or written matter) on a special electric copying machine; PHOTOCOPY

Xer·xes /ˈzɜ:ksi:z‖ˈzɜ:r-/ (about 519–465 BC) a king of Persia who unsuccessfully tried to CONQUER Greece

X-film /ˈeks fɪlm/ *n* a film that is X-RATED

Xho·sa /ˈkɔ:sə, ˈkəʊ-‖ˈkəʊsə/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a member of) a S African Bantu people **2** [U] the Bantu language spoken by these people

Xiaoping see DENG XIAOPING

X·mas /ˈkrɪsməs, ˈeksməs/ *n* [C;U] *infml* CHRISTMAS; mainly used in writing, for example on shop signs and Christmas cards

X-OPEN /ˌeks ˈəʊpən/ an institution set up by large computer makers to set international standards for SOFTWARE that will run on many different systems

X-rat·ed /ˈeks ˌreɪtɨd/ also **X-certificate**– *adj* **1** (of a film) given, or deserving, a CERTIFICATE meaning that it is suitable only for people over the age of 18 to watch, usu. because of the sex or violence it contains: *an X-rated movie* **2** *infml* involving sex, violence, or bad language

x-ray /ˈeks reɪ/ *v* [T] (*often cap.*) to photograph, examine, or trèat by means of X-rays: *They x-rayed her leg to find out if the bone was broken.*

X-ray *n* **1** [*usu. pl.*] a powerful unseen beam of light which can pass through substances that are not transparent, and which is used for photographing conditions inside the body, for treating certain diseases, and for various purposes in industry: *an X-ray machine* **2** a photograph taken using this: *The doctor examined the X-rays, to see if they showed anything wrong with her lungs.* **3** a medical examination made using this: *He had to go to the hospital for an X-ray.*

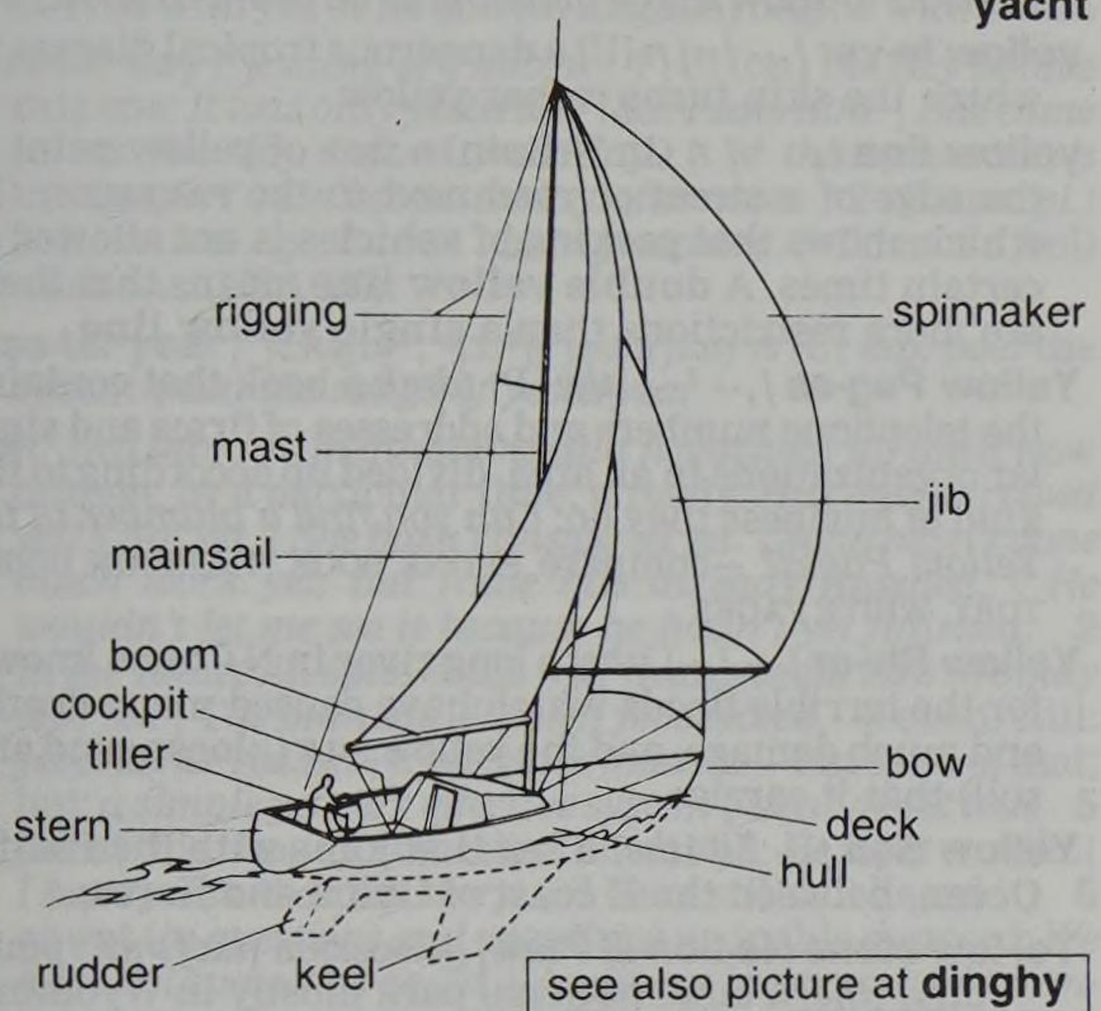
X-Win·dows /ˈeks wɪndəʊz/ *n tdmk* a type of computer WINDOWING that is expected to become an international standard for window SOFTWARE. It was developed at MIT under the control of X-OPEN.

xy·lo·phone /ˈzaɪləfəʊn/ *n* a musical instrument made up of a set of flat wooden or metal bars of different lengths, each of which gives out a different musical note, played by striking with two small hammers

Y

Y, y /waɪ/ **Y's, y's** *or* **Ys, ys** the 25th letter of the English alphabet

yacht



see also picture at **dinghy**

yacht /jɒt‖jɑːt/ *n* **1** a light sailing boat, esp. one used for racing —compare DINGHY **2** a large often motor-driven boat used for pleasure. Yachts are often thought of in connection with very rich people.

yacht·ing /ˈjɒtɪŋ‖ˈjɑːtɪŋ/ *n* [U] (the act of) sailing, travelling, or racing in a yacht: *They go yachting most weekends.*

yachts·man /ˈjɒtsmən‖ˈjɑːts-/ **yachts·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.— n* **-men** /mən/ a person who owns or sails a yacht

Yah-boo /ˌjɑː ˈbuː/ also **yah-boo sucks** /ˌ· · ˈ·/— *BrE interj* used to express dislike or disrespect for someone, or to make fun of them

ya·hoo /jɑːˈhuː/ *n* (*sometimes cap.*) a rough, noisy, or bad-mannered UPPER-CLASS British person: *the stockbroker yahoos who swarm to Covent Garden for Pavarotti*

Yah·weh /ˈjɑːweɪ/ a Hebrew name for God

yak[1] /jæk/ *n* a long-haired cowlike animal of central Asia

yak[2] *v* **-kk-** [I (ON)] *infml derog* to talk continuously about unimportant things; CHATTER

Yale[1] /jeɪl/ an American university in New Haven, Connecticut. It is one of the oldest and most respected American universities: *Politicians are often graduates of Harvard and Yale.*

Yale[2] *n tdmk* a type of lock often used on outside doors, having a special sort of key

y'all /jɔːl/ *pron AmE, infml* you all; used mainly by people in the south of the US: *"Do y'all want to come over for lunch?" | "It's been so nice seeing y'all again!"*

Yal·ta /ˈjæltə‖ˈjɔːl-/ a port and holiday place on the Black Sea in Russia. The **Yalta Conference** was held here in 1945 between Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, when certain European borders were decided on and the beginnings of the United Nations were agreed. —see picture on page 752

yam /jæm/ *n* **1** a tropical climbing plant grown for its root, which is eaten as a vegetable **2** *AmE for* SWEET POTATO

Yam·a·ha /ˈjæməhɑː/ **1** *tdmk* a motorcycle made by the Japanese company Yamaha **2** the company which also makes musical instruments, electronic musical KEYBOARDS etc.

Ya·ma·ni /jəˈmɑːni/, **Sheik Ah·med Za·ki** /ˈɑːmed ˈzɑːki/ (1930–) a Saudi Arabian politician

yam·mer /ˈjæməʳ/ *v* [I (ON)] *infml derog* to talk noisily and continuously

yang /jæŋ/ *n* [U] the male principle in Chinese PHILOSOPHY which is active, light and POSITIVE and which combines with YIN (=the female principle) to form the whole world. There should be a balance of yin and yang in everything. —see picture at YIN

yank[1] /jæŋk/ *v* [I;T] *infml* to pull suddenly and sharply: *He yanked the nail|the tooth out. | He yanked (on) the rope.*

yank[2] *n infml* a sudden sharp pull

Yank *n BrE derog for* YANKEE (1)

Yan·kee /ˈjæŋki/ *n infml* **1** *esp. BrE* a citizen of the United States of America **2** *AmE* a person born or living in the northern or northeastern states of the US. This word is connected with the American CIVIL WAR, when northerners (Yankees) fought southerners (REBELS).

Yankee Doo·dle /ˌ·· ˈ··/ of a song which became popular with American soldiers during the American Revolutionary War. The song was probably originally British and made fun of the Americans:

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a pony.
Stuck a feather in his hat,
And called it macaroni.

yap /jæp/ *v* **-pp-** [I] *derog* **1** (esp. of a small dog) to make short sharp excited noises (sharp BARKS) **2** [(ON, AWAY)] *infml* to talk noisily about unimportant things —**yap** *n*

yard[1] /jɑːd‖jɑːrd/ *n* **1** (*written abbrev.* **yd**) a unit of length —see TABLE 2 **2** also **yards**— *infml* a great length or quantity: *His estimate was yards out.* (=wrong by a great deal) **3** *naut* a long pole that supports a square sail

yard[2] *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) an enclosed or partly enclosed area next to a building or group of buildings: *a churchyard* **2** *AmE* a BACKYARD (2) or a front garden (**front yard**): *You can play in our yard. | Play in the front yard today because the grass is shorter.* —see picture at HOUSE **3** (*usu. in comb.*) an area enclosed for a special purpose, activity, or business: *a shipyard | a coalyard*

Yard [*the*] *infml for* SCOTLAND YARD

yard·age /ˈjɑːdɪdʒ‖ˈjɑːr-/ *n tech* [C;U] the size of something measured in yards or square yards: *a large yardage of sail*

yard·arm /ˈjɑːd-ɑːm‖ˈjɑːrd-ɑːrm/ *n* either end of the pole (YARD[1] (3)) that supports a square sail

yard line /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in American football) any of the lines drawn on the field to mark each yard: *The ball is at the 10-yard line.*

yard sale /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* GARAGE SALE

yard·stick /ˈjɑːdˌstɪk‖ˈjɑːrd-/ *n* [(**of**)] a standard of measurement or comparison: *Is profit the only yardstick of success?*

yar·mul·ke /ˈjɑːmʊlkə‖ˈjɑːr-/ *n* a small circular cap worn by male Jews in the SYNAGOGUE and by some male Jews all the time

yarn[1] /jɑːn‖jɑːrn/ *n* **1** [U] *esp. AmE* a long continuous usu. cotton or woollen thick thread used in KNITTING, making cloth, mats, etc. **2** [C] *infml* a story of adventures, travels, etc., esp. that is exaggerated (EXAGGERATE) or untrue: *The old sea captain would often* **spin us a yarn** *about his adventures.*

yarn[2] *v* [I] *infml* to tell YARNS[1] (2)

yash·mak /ˈjæʃmæk/ *n* a piece of cloth worn across the face by some Muslim women

Yat-Sen Sun see SUN YAT-SEN

yaw /jɔː/ *v* [I] *tech* (of a ship, aircraft, etc.) to make a turn to the side, esp. out of the proper course —compare PITCH[1] (5), ROLL[1] (6) —**yaw** *n* [C;U]

yawl /jɔːl/ *n* **1** a sailing boat with at least two sails, one of which is set well back **2** a small boat carried on a ship

yawn[1] /jɔːn/ *v* [I] **1** to open the mouth wide and breathe in deeply, as when tired or uninterested **2** to be or become wide open: *The hole yawned before him. | a yawning chasm* | (fig.) *yawning gaps in the law*

yawn[2] *n* **1** an act of yawning **2** [*usu. sing.*] *infml derog* a dull uninteresting thing or person: *The party was a big yawn.*

yaws /jɔːz/ *n* [U] a tropical skin disease

Y chro·mo·some /ˈwaɪ ˌkrəʊməsəʊm/ *n* a CHROMOSOME which exists singly in male cells, and which, after union of male and female, will produce a male when combined with an X CHROMOSOME

yd *written abbrev. for:* YARD(*s*)[1] (1)

ye[1] /jiː/ *pron old use* (used esp. when addressing more than one person, usu. only as the subject of a sentence) you

ye[2] *determiner* (a word used esp. in the names of PUBS and shops, in order to make them seem old and historical) the: *Ye Olde Dog and Duck* (pub sign)

yea[1] /jeɪ/ *adv old use* yes —opposite **nay**; see also AYE[2]

yea[2] *n* a vote or voter in favour of an idea, plan, law, etc. —opposite **nay**; see also AYE[3]

yeah /jeə/ *adv infml* yes

year /jɪəʳ, jɜːʳ‖jɪər/ *n* **1** a measure of time equal to about 365¼ days, which is the amount of time it takes for the Earth to travel completely round the sun **2** also **calendar year**— a period of 365 or 366 days divided into 12 months beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st: *last year's budget | early|late in the year | It's been a good year for films.* (=There have been a lot of good films this year.) | *The lease expires in the year 2010.* **3** a period of 365 days measured from any point: *She has worked here for about four years. | I arrived here two years ago today. | a three-year-old child | a ten-year business plan* **4** a period of (about) a year in the life of an organization: *The school year is broken up with many holidays.| second-year students* (=in the second year of a course) **5 all the year round** during the whole year **6 year after year** continuously for many years **7 year in year out** regularly each year, without ever changing: *They go to the same campsite year in year out.* —see also YEARS, FINANCIAL YEAR, LEAP YEAR, LIGHT YEAR, NEW YEAR, SCHOOL YEAR

year·book /ˈjɪəbʊk, ˈjɜː-‖ˈjɪər-/ *n AmE* a book printed once a year giving facts and information about the year just past: *Look! There's my photo in the school yearbook.*

►CULTURAL NOTE In American HIGH SCHOOLS, students usu. buy a yearbook at the end of the school year, esp. their final year. The yearbook includes a small photograph of every student, and usu. has informal photographs of students, groups, parties, and school activities as well. It is customary to have the yearbook signed by friends and teachers. Often the yearbook is designed by a group of students.◄

year dot /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+S] *BrE infml, often derog* a very long time ago: *They've lived here since the year dot.*

year·ling /ˈjɪəlɪŋ, ˈjɜː-‖ˈjɪər-/ *n* an animal, esp. a young horse, between one and two years old

year·long /ˌjɪəˈlɒŋ◂, ˈjɜː-‖ˌjɪərˈlɔːŋ◂/ *adj* [A] lasting for a year or all through the year: *She came back after a yearlong absence.*

year·ly /ˈjɪəli, ˈjɜː-‖ˈjɪərli/ *adj, adv* (happening, appearing, etc.) every year or once a year: *a yearly pay award | a five-yearly medical examination* (=once every five years)

yearn /jɜːn‖jɜːrn/ *v* [I (**for**)] *esp. lit* to have a strong, loving, or sad desire: *He yearned for her return|for her to return.* [+*to-v*] *They yearned to return home.*

yearn·ing /ˈjɜːnɪŋ‖ˈjɜːr-/ *n* [C;U (**for**/*to-v*)] *esp. lit* (a) strong usu. sad desire: *a yearning for|to travel | an actor's yearning for recognition*

years /jɪəz, jɜːz‖jɪərz/ *n* [P] **1** *fml or lit* age, esp. old age: *He is very healthy for a man of his years.* **2** *infml* a long time: *I haven't seen her for years. | It happened years ago.*

yeast /jiːst/ *n* [U] a form of very small plant life that is used for producing alcohol in beer and wine and for making bread rise —~**y** *adj*: *a yeasty taste*

yeast ex·tract /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a food made from yeasts, which is used both to give taste and to supply many B VITAMINS

Yeats /jeɪts/, **W B** (1865–1939) an Irish poet, considered to be one of the most important Irish writers. He also wrote stories and plays and was active in Irish politics.

yell /jel/ *v* [I;T (OUT, **at**)] to shout or say very loudly, esp. in fear, anger, or excitement: *Don't yell at me like that! | He yelled (out) orders at everyone.* —**yell** *n*: *The new-born baby let out a yell.*

yel·low[1] /ˈjeləʊ/ *adj* **1** of a colour like that of butter, gold, or the YOLK (=middle part) of an egg

►CULTURAL NOTE The colour yellow is associated with COWARDICE.◄

2 having the light brown skin of some east Asian people (may be considered offensive) **3** also **yellow-bel·lied** /ˈ·· ˌ··/— *derog sl* not brave; cowardly —**yellow** *n* [U]

yellow[2] *v* [I;T] to make or become yellow: *The paper had yellowed with age.*

yellow a·lert /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] (a condition of readiness to deal with) a situation of great danger. It is less serious than RED ALERT.

yellow brick road /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a road which leads to a place where a person can find something good (from the story *The Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum, in which Dorothy and her friends have to follow the yellow brick road to find the WIZARD who will help them)

yellow card /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a yellow card held up by a football REFEREE to show that a player is to be booked (BOOK[2] (3))

yellow fe·ver /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a dangerous tropical disease in which the skin turns rather yellow

yellow line /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a line of yellow paint at the edge of a street or road next to the PAVEMENT (1), which shows that parking of vehicles is not allowed at certain times. A **double yellow line** means that there are more restrictions than a **single yellow line**

Yellow Pag·es /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*+P] *tdmk* a book that contains the telephone numbers and addresses of firms and similar organizations in an area, divided up according to the kind of business they do: *Can you find a plumber in the Yellow Pages?* —compare PHONE BOOK, THOMSON DIRECTORY, WHITE PAGES

Yellow Riv·er /ˌ·· ˈ·· / [*the*] a long river in N China, known for the terrible floods which have caused many deaths and much damage, and the yellow SILT (=loose sand and soil) that it carries

Yellow Sea /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a sea that joins with the Pacific Ocean, between the E coast of China and Korea

Yel·low·stone Na·tion·al Park /ˌjeləʊstəʊn ˌnæʃənəl ˈpɑːk‖ -ˈpɑːrk/ [*the*] a large national park mostly in Wyoming, US, known for its hot springs and GEYSERS, esp. one called Old Faithful which is a big tourist attraction

yelp /jelp/ *v* [I] to make a short sharp high cry of pain, excitement, etc.: *The dog yelped and ran off.* —**yelp** *n*

Yelt·sin /ˈjeltsɨn/, **Bor·is** /ˈbɒrɨs‖ˈbɔː-/ (1931–) a Russian politician who became president of the Russian parliament in 1990 and was involved, with Mikhail Gorbachev, with changing Russian society and politics

Yem·en /ˈjemən/ a country, bordered by the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf of Aden, which until 1990 was split into two countries, **North Yemen** or the **Yemen Arab Republic**, and **South Yemen** or the **People's Democratic Republic of Yemen**, since then known as the **Republic of Yemen**; capital San'a; population 10,168,000 (1989) —**Yemeni** *adj, n*

yen[1] /jen/ *n* **yen** the standard unit of money in Japan

yen[2] *n* [S (**for**/*to-v*)] a strong desire: *a yen for|to travel*

yeo·man /ˈjəʊmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *BrE, esp. lit* a farmer who owns and works his own land

yeoman of the guard /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a member of a military unit who attend the Queen at certain ceremonies and act as keepers at the Tower of London. They are also called **Beefeaters** and they wear a special uniform, which often appears on SOUVENIRS of London.

yeo·man·ry /ˈjəʊmənri/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] *BrE, esp. lit* country landowners

yeoman ser·vice /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] great and loyal service, help, or support

yer /jəʳ/ *determiner* (used in writing to represent a nonstandard way of saying) your

yes[1] /jes/ *adv* **1** (used as an answer expressing agreement or willingness): *"Is this book a dictionary?" "Yes, it is." | "Is there anything you need?" "Yes, there is." | "Would you like to go to the cinema?" "Yes, please|Yes, I would." | We can ask them, but I doubt if they'll say yes.* —opposite **no** **2** (used when partly agreeing, but going on to state a different opinion): *"This system is too expensive for the company to afford." "Yes, that's true, but ... "* **3** (used for showing that one has heard a command or call, and will obey or is paying attention): *"Go and close the door." "Yes, sir." | "Michael!" "Yes?"* (=What do you want?) **4 yes and no** (used to show that one partly agrees and partly disagrees) —see NO (USAGE)

yes[2] *n* a vote, voter, or reply in favour of an idea, plan, law, etc.: *a yes vote*

ye·shi·va , yeshivah /jəˈʃiːvə/ *n* **yeshivas, yeshivoth** /-vəs/ a school where Jewish students are taught religious and other subjects, or may train to became RABBIS (=religious leaders)

yes-man /ˈjes mæn/ *n* **-men** /men/ *derog* someone who always agrees with their employer, leader, etc., in order to gain favour and appear in a good light so that they will succeed at work

Yes, Min·is·ter /ˈ· ˌ··/ a British COMEDY programme first shown in the 1980s. The two main characters are a government minister called Jim Hacker and a CIVIL SERVANT called Sir Humphrey Appleby.

yes/no ques·tion /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a question which can be answered with yes or no and (in English) begins with a verb

yes·ter·day /ˈjestədi‖-ər-/ *adv, n* **1** [U] (on) the day before this one: *It was only yesterday that I saw him.* | *She came to tea the day before yesterday.* | *Is that yesterday's newspaper?* | *He left yesterday afternoon.* **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a short time ago: *I wasn't born yesterday.* (=I'm not a fool) —see DAY (USAGE)

yes·ter·year /ˈjestəjɪəʳ, -jɜːʳ‖ˈjestərjɪər/ *n* [U] *esp. poet* the recent past: *the songs of yesteryear*

yet[1] /jet/ *adv* **1** [*in questions and negatives*] up until now or then; by a particular time; already: *Has John arrived yet?* | *Not yet.* | *She hasn't answered yet.* | *John hasn't done much work yet, but Anne has already finished.* | *He wouldn't let me see it because he hadn't yet finished.* **2** in the future; in spite of the way things seem now: *We may win yet.* | *The plan could (even) yet succeed.* **3** even; still: *yet another reason* | *a yet worse mistake* **4** in spite of that; but: *a simple yet very effective system* | *strange yet true* **5** *fml* at this time as at earlier times; still: *He is yet a child.* | *I have yet to hear the story.* (=I have still not heard it) **6 as yet** (*in questions and negatives*) up to this moment: *We have not succeeded as yet.* | *As yet, we have received no answer.* —see ALREADY (USAGE), JUST (USAGE), STILL (USAGE)

yet[2] *conj* but even so; but: *She felt sad yet at the same time relieved that it was time to leave.* | *She's a funny girl, (and/but) yet you can't help liking her.*

yeti



yet·i /ˈjeti/ also **abominable snowman**– *n* a large hairy manlike animal supposed to live in the Himalaya mountains

Yev·tu·shen·ko /ˌjevtuːˈʃeŋkəʊ ‖ ˌjeftə-/, **Yev·ge·ny** /jevˈgeɪni/ (1933–) a Russian poet whose works, such as *Babi Yar*, caused CONTROVERSY by criticizing Russian society

yew /juː/ *n* [C;U] (the wood of) a tree with small EVERGREEN leaves (=leaves that are always green) and small red berries

Y-fronts /ˈwaɪ frʌnts/ *n* [P] *BrE* men's UNDERPANTS with a sewn part in front in the shape of an upside-down Y

YHA /ˌwaɪ eɪtʃ ˈeɪ/ [*the*] Youth Hostels Association; the organization which runs the YOUTH HOSTELS in Britain and has ties with similar organizations around the world, so that members can stay in hostels wherever they go

the symbol for the Youth Hostels Association



yid /jɪd/ *n taboo derog* a Jew (considered extremely offensive)

Yid·dish /ˈjɪdɪʃ/ *n* [U] a language spoken by Jews, esp. in eastern Europe, often in addition to the language of the country in which they live

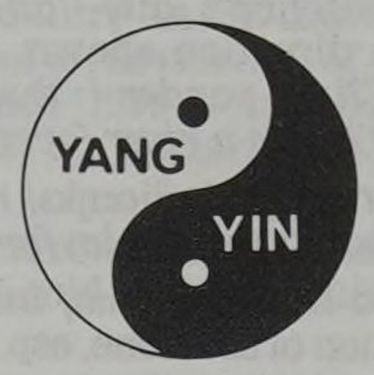
yield[1] /jiːld/ *v* **1** [T] to produce, bear, or provide, esp. as a result of work or effort: *That tree yields plenty of fruit.* | *His business yields big profits.* | *Their long search failed to yield any clues.* | *high-yielding investments/cereal crops* **2** [I;T (UP, **to**)] *fml or lit* to give up control (of); SURRENDER: *We were forced to yield.* | *We yielded (up) our position to the enemy.* **3** [I] to bend, break, etc., because of a strong force: *The shelf is beginning to yield under that heavy weight.* **4** [I (**to**)] *AmE*‖**give way** *BrE* (a traffic sign) to allow other traffic to go first: *You must yield to traffic from the left.*

yield[2] *n* that which is produced or the amount that is produced: *The trees gave a high yield (of fruit) this year.* | *yields on bonds/securities*

yield·ing /ˈjiːldɪŋ/ *adj* **1** able to bend; not stiff or fixed **2** likely to agree with others or accept their wishes; COMPLIANT

yin /jɪn/ *n* [U] the female principle in Chinese PHILOSOPHY which is inactive, dark and NEGATIVE and which combines with YANG (=the male principle) to form the whole world. There should be a balance of yin and yang in everything.

the symbol for yin-yang

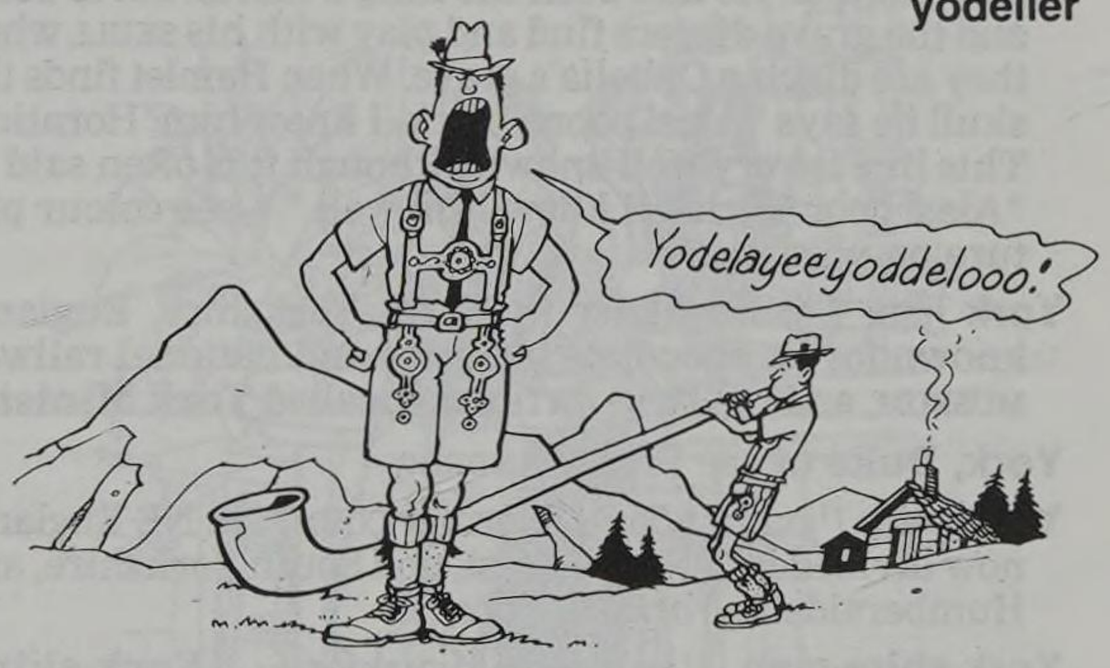


yip·pee /jɪˈpiː‖ˈjɪpi/ *interj infml* (a cry of delight, happiness, success, etc.)

YMCA /ˌwaɪ em siː ˈeɪ/ Young Men's Christian Association; an organization in many countries which provides places to stay and sports centres for young people, esp. in large cities, and is also concerned with their spiritual well-being —see also YWCA

yob /jɒb‖jɑːb/ also **yob·bo** /ˈjɒbəʊ‖ˈjɑː-/– *n BrE derog* a rude or troublesome young man; LOUT

yodeller



yo·del[1] /ˈjəʊdl/ *v BrE* **-ll-** ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I;T] to sing (a song or piece of music) with many fast changes between the natural voice and a very high voice

yodel[2] *n* a song, piece of music, or cry sung or made by yodelling

yo·ga /ˈjəʊgə/ *n* [U] **1** a Hindu PHILOSOPHY which teaches control of the mind, senses, and body in order to reach union with God **2** a branch of yoga (e.g. **hatha yoga**) which consists of a system of exercises to gain control over the mind and esp. the body. In British society yoga is usu. done as a way of keeping fit, and is thought of by some people as slightly strange because of its connections with eastern PHILOSOPHY and MEDITATION.

yog·hurt , yogurt, yoghourt /ˈjɒgət‖ˈjəʊgərt/ *n* [U] milk that has turned thick and slightly acid through the action of certain bacteria, often eaten with fruit. Yoghurt is usu. thought of as a health food.

yo·gi /ˈjəʊgi/ *n* a person who practises yoga, esp. one who teaches it to others

Yogi Bear /ˌ·· ˈ·/ an American CARTOON character on children's television, a bear who is always hungry and always trying to steal food from people

yoke[1] /jəʊk/ *n* **1** [C] a wooden bar used for joining two animals, esp. cattle, together in order to pull heavy loads, farm vehicles, etc. **2** [C] a frame fitted across a person's shoulders for carrying two equal loads **3** [*the*+S (**of**)] *lit* power, control, etc.: *They were brought under the yoke of the king.* **4** [*the*+S (**of**)] *lit* something that binds people or things together: *the yoke of marriage*

yoke[2] *v* [T (TOGETHER)] to join (as if) with a yoke: *Yoke the oxen together.*

yo·kel /ˈjəʊkəl/ *n humor or derog* a simple or foolish country person —compare VILLAGE IDIOT

yokel



Yo·ko·ha·ma /ˌjəʊkəʊˈhɑːmə/ a city and port on Tokyo Bay, Japan

yolk /jəʊk‖jəʊk, jelk/ *n* [C;U] the yellow part in the centre of an egg, which is surrounded by the WHITE[2] (4)

Yom Kip·pur /ˌjɒm ˈkɪpəʳ, -kɪˈpʊəʳ‖ˌjəʊm-/ *n* [C,U] a Jewish holiday, the DAY OF ATONEMENT

yon·der /ˈjɒndəʳ‖ˈjɑːn-/ also **yon** /jɒn ‖ jɑːn/— *adj, adv old use or dial* at a place or in a direction shown, suggested, or in view; over there: *Climb yonder* (=that) *hill and you will see the city.* | *There's a river (over) yonder.*

yonks /jɒŋks‖jɑːŋks/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* a very long time: *I haven't seen him for yonks; he's gone to live in Canada.*

yoo-hoo /ˌjuː ˈhuː/ *interj infml* (said to attract the attention of someone, esp. when you are in their view but they cannot see you)

YOP /jɒp‖jɑːp/ Youth Opportunities Programme; a British government programme which arranged work experience for people leaving school at the age of 16, to provide them with training and a small amount of money. YOP was replaced in 1983 by YTS.

yore /jɔːʳ/ *n* [U] *lit* time long past: *Brave knights courted fair ladies* **in days of yore.**

Yor·ick /ˈjɒrɪk ‖ ˈjɔː-/ a character in William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. He had been the king's JESTER but is dead, and the grave-diggers find and play with his SKULL when they are digging Ophelia's grave. When Hamlet finds the skull he says "Alas! poor Yorick. I knew him, Horatio". This line is very well known although it is often said as "Alas! poor Yorick. I knew him well." —see colour picture on page 1146

York /jɔːk ‖ jɔːrk/ a city in North Yorkshire, England, known for its chocolate factories and national railway MUSEUM, and the large CATHEDRAL called **York Minister**

York, Duke of see Prince ANDREW

York·shire /ˈjɔːkʃəʳ‖ˈjɔːr-/ a former COUNTY in NE England, now divided into North, West, and South Yorkshire, and Humberside: *a Yorkshire accent*

York·shire·man /ˈjɔːkʃəmən‖ˈjɔːrkʃər-/ , **York·shire·wom·an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.— n* **-men** /mən/ a person who comes or whose parents come from the former county of Yorkshire

Yorkshire Moors /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the* + P] a general name used by some people when talking about areas of MOOR in Yorkshire, esp. including the North York Moors

Yorkshire pud·ding /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] a baked mixture of flour, milk, and egg, usu. served with or before BEEF esp. as part of a Sunday dinner

Yorkshire Rip·per /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the name given by some newspapers to Peter Sutcliffe, who murdered 13 women in the late 1970s and early 1980s —see also Peter SUTCLIFFE

Yorkshire Tel·e·vi·sion /ˌ·· ˈ····, ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, sending out programmes to Yorkshire and Humberside

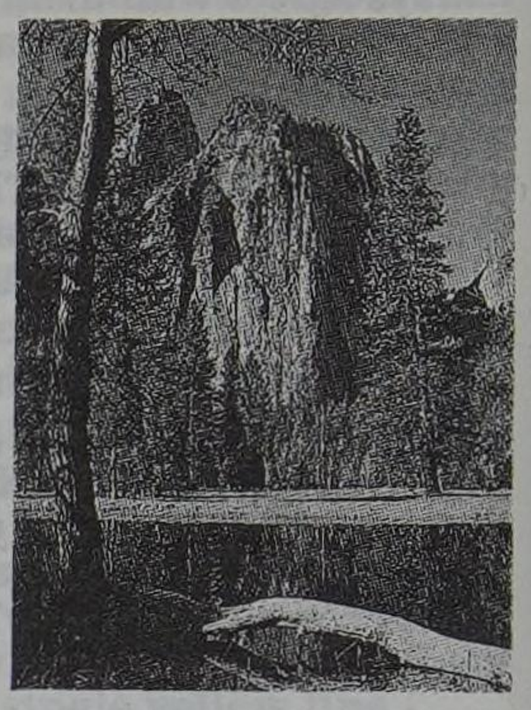
Yorkshire ter·ri·er /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a type of small dog with long straight silky hair which is grey or brown —see picture at DOG

Yorkshire Wa·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a water company in N England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

York·town /ˈjɔːktaʊn ‖ ˈjɔːrk-/ a town in Virginia, US where the last battle of the American Revolutionary War and the SURRENDER of the British to the Americans took place in 1781

Yo·sem·i·te Na·tion·al Park /jəʊˌsemɨti ˌnæʃənəl ˈpɑːk ‖ -ˈpɑːrk/ a park in California, US, known for its beautiful lakes, waterfalls, and large REDWOOD trees

Yosemite National Park



you /jə, jʊ; *strong* juː/ *pron* (used as subject or object) **1** the person or people being spoken to: *You are my only friend.* | *You must all listen carefully.* | *Would you like some tea?* | *Will you please stop that noise.* | *Only you can decide this.* | *I told you (the truth).* **2** a person; anyone; one: *You have to be careful with people you don't know.* (compare *One has to be ...*) | *You can't learn English just by reading books about it.* **3** (used with nouns or phrases when addressing someone, esp. in an angry way): *You girls are always getting into trouble.* | *You fool!* | *You in the corner; come here!*

you'd /jəd, jʊd; *strong* juːd/ *short for:* **1** you had **2** you would

you'll /jəl, jʊl; *strong* juːl/ *short for:* **1** you will **2** you shall

young[1] /jʌŋ/ *adj* **younger** /ˈjʌŋgəʳ/, **youngest** /ˈjʌŋgɨst/ **1** in an early stage of life, growth, development, etc.; recently born or begun: *a young girl|plant|country* | *the younger generation* | *my younger brother* —opposite **old** **2** of, for, or having the qualities of a young person: *He may be 55, but he's young at heart.* (=in his behaviour, opinions, etc.) | *That hat is too young for you.*

young[2] *n* **1** [*the*+P] young people considered as a group —see CHILD (USAGE) **2** [P] young animals: *The lion fought to protect her young.* | *the young of the elephant*

Young, Brig·ham /ˈbrɪgəm/ (1801–77) an American leader of the Mormon religion who directed the settlement at Salt Lake City, Utah. A university there is named after him.

Young, Cy /saɪ/ (1867–1955) a BASEBALL player famous for his PITCHING (=throwing). Each year the **Cy Young Award** is given to the best pitchers in the American and National Leagues.

young·er /ˈjʌŋgəʳ/ *adj* [A; after *n*; *no comp*] being the son or daughter of someone with the same name: *William Pitt the younger was a prime minister of England.* —compare ELDER[1]

young la·dy /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n old-fash* (said to or about a younger person by an older person) a GIRLFRIEND: *When are we going to meet your young lady then?* —compare LADY FRIEND

young man /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n old-fash* (said to or about a younger person by an older person) a BOYFRIEND: *Was that your young man I saw you with last night?*

young of·fen·der /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* (in Britain) a criminal of any kind who is not an adult in the eyes of the law, and who may be sent to one of several types of **young offenders' institution**

Young Pre·tend·er /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ [*the*] another name for Charles Edward STUART

young·ster /ˈjʌŋstəʳ/ *n* a young person, esp. a boy

Young Turk /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a member of a political party or other organization who wants great changes to be made

your /jəʳ; *strong* jɔːʳ‖jər; *strong* jʊər, jɔːr/ *determiner* (*possessive form of* YOU) **1** of or belonging to you: *It's your book, not mine.* | *Was that your idea?* | *I told him your problem.* | *You must all come and bring your husbands.* | *It's your own fault if you've spent all your money!* **2** belonging to any person; one's: *If you are facing north, east is on your right.* **3** *infml* (used to show that something is well known or familiar): *Your typical postage stamp is square.* | *He was your archetypal English gentleman.*

you're /jəʳ; *strong* jɔːʳ‖jər; *strong* jʊər, jɔːr/ *short for:* you are

yours /jɔːz‖jʊərz, jɔːrz/ *pron* **1** (*possessive form of* YOU) of the person or people spoken to: *This is our room, and yours* (=your room) *is at the end of the passage.* | *Yours is|are green.* | *Isn't she a friend of yours?* **2** (*usu. cap.*) (written at the end of a letter): **Yours faithfully|Yours truly** (=used to end a formal letter that begins *Dear Sir(s)|Madam,* etc.) | **Yours sincerely** (=used to end a less formal letter that begins *Dear Mr Smith, Dear Miss Jones,* etc.) | *Yours, Joe Baker.* **3 yours truly** /ˌ· ˈ··/

infml I; me; myself: *They all went out, leaving yours truly to clear up the mess.*

▷USAGE In British English, **Yours sincerely** is the most common way of ending a letter to someone whose name you know. **Yours faithfully** is used when writing to someone whose name you do not know. In American English **Sincerely yours, Sincerely** and **Yours truly** are commonly used. In informal letters many other endings are possible, such as **Yours** and **Best wishes.**◁

your·self /jə'self‖jər-/ *pron* **-selves** /'selvz/ **1** (*reflexive form of* YOU): *You'll hurt yourself if you play with the scissors.* | *Buy yourself some shoes.* **2** (*strong form of* YOU): *You yourself said so.* | *You and Mary said so yourselves.* **3** *infml* (in) your usual state of mind or body: *Are you very tired? You don't seem yourself today.* | *I'll forgive you; I know you weren't yourself when you said that.* **4 (all) by yourself a** alone; without help: *Did you make this by yourself?* **b** alone; without anyone else: *Did you come here all by yourself?* **5 to yourself** for your private use; not shared; *a bedroom to yourself* —see also DO-IT-YOURSELF

▷USAGE 1 Reflexive pronouns like **yourself, themselves,** etc. are used with verbs that need a reflexive object: *Are you enjoying* **yourself**? but with some verbs they can be left out with no change of meaning: *Let's go and wash* **(ourselves).** 2 They are also used after prepositions in sentences like *Mary looked at* **herself** *in the mirror,* but not after prepositions that show position or direction in space: *She shut the door behind* **her** (not **herself**).◁

youth /juːθ/ *n* **youths** /juːðz‖juːðz, juːθs/ **1** [U] the period of being young, esp. the period between being a child and being fully grown; early life: *In (his) youth, he had shown great promise.* **2** [C] *often derog* a young person, esp. a male TEENAGER: *a gang of youths* —see CHILD (USAGE) **3** [(*the*) S (**of**)+*sing./pl. v*] young men and women considered as a group: *The youth of the country is/are being ignored by politicians.* | *youth unemployment* (=among young people) **4** [S;U] the quality or state of being young: *He lost his youth a long time ago.* | *a product which claims to restore youth*

youth club /'· ˌ·/ *n* a meeting place for young people where they can talk, drink coffee, play games, etc. and often connected with a church or COMMUNITY CENTRE

youth cul·ture /'· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the interests and activities of young people, esp. the music, films, sports, or other entertainments they enjoy

youth·ful /'juːθfəl/ *adj* **1** (having the qualities) typical of youth: *youthful enthusiasm* | *She's over 50 but has a youthful complexion* **2** young or relatively young: *the youthful prime minister* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

youth hos·tel /'· ˌ··/ *n* a place in which members of the Youth Hostel Association, esp. young people walking around country areas on holiday, can stay for a small payment. The beds are usu. in dormitories (DORMITORY). Youth hostels are not common in the US. —~**ler** *n* —~**ling** *n* [U] : *I used to go youth-hostelling in my school vacations.*

Youth Op·por·tu·ni·ties Pro·gramme /ˌ· ··'··· ˌ··/ see YOP

Youth Train·ing /ˌ· '··/ see YT

Youth Train·ing Scheme /ˌ· '·· ˌ·/ see YTS

you've /jəv; *strong* juːv/ *short for:* you have

yowl /jaʊl/ *v* [I] (esp. of a cat or dog) to make a long loud cry, esp. of pain or sadness —**yowl** *n*

yo·yo /'jəʊjəʊ/ *n* **-yos** a toy made of a thick circular piece of wood, plastic, etc., that can be made to run up and down a string tied to it

Y·pres /'iːprə/ a town in S Belgium known as the scene of three great battles of the First World War during which hundreds of thousands of soldiers died. It was known as **Wipers** by the British soldiers there.

YT /ˌwaɪ 'tiː/ Youth Training; a British government SCHEME, run by the CAREERS OFFICE, which arranges TRAINING for young people without a job and provides a small payment for them while they are working or training. YT is COMPULSORY (=you have to do it) if you have not got a job and are aged between 16 and 18

YTS /ˌwaɪ tiː 'es/ Youth Training Scheme; a British government programme which organized TRAINING for people leaving school at 16 and gave them a small amount of money. YTSs have now been replaced by Youth Training (YT)

Yuc·a·tán /ˌjʊkə'tɑːn‖ˌjuːkə'tæn/ [*the*] a PENINSULA which lies in Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala and sticks out into the Gulf of Mexico. It was the centre of the Maya civilization.

yuc·ca /'jʌkə/ *n* a plant with long pointed leaves on a woody stem, with large white flowers

yuck, yuk /jʌk/ *interj infml* (an expression of extreme dislike)

yuck·y /'jʌki/ *adj infml derog* extremely unpleasant: *yucky food* | *a yucky colour*

Yu·go /'juːgəʊ/ *n tdmk* a make of car from the former Yugoslavia, based on old Fiat models and known esp. for being cheap

Yu·go·sla·vi·a /ˌjuːgəʊ'slɑːviə/ a country in SE Europe formerly (1929–1990) consisting of a FEDERATION of six REPUBLICS; capital Belgrade. Since 1990 it has been divided into separate republics by declarations of independence.

Yu·kon /'juːkɒn‖-kɑːn/ [*the*] **1** a TERRITORY in NW Canada, which was the SITE of the Klondike gold rush in the 1890s **2** a river in NE North America

yule /juːl/ *n* [U] *old use* (*sometimes cap.*) CHRISTMAS

yule log /'· ·/ *n* **1** a log of wood burnt on the evening before Christmas **2** a cake made to look like this

yule·tide /'juːltaɪd/ *n* [U] *esp. poet or pomp* (*sometimes cap.*) CHRISTMAS: *Yuletide greetings*

yum·my /'jʌmi/ *adj infml* tasting very good; DELICIOUS

yuppie



yup·pie , yuppy /'jʌpi/ *n sometimes derog* (from abbrev. of Young Upwardly-mobile Professional) a young person in a professional job with a high income, esp. one who enjoys spending money and having a fashionable way of life. In Britain, yuppies are seen as young people who earn a lot of money without necessarily working very hard, usu. on the financial markets in the City. They typically drive Porsche cars and use car PHONES, PERSONAL ORGANIZERS, and other modern expensive goods and are more concerned about enjoying their lifestyle than having a family or helping others in society. In the US, yuppies are thought of as being slightly older and as being insensitive, AMBITIOUS, and too interested in material goods.

yuppie flu /ˌ·· '·/ *n* [U] *derog* see ME

Yves St Laurent see Saint-LAURENT

YWCA /ˌwaɪ dʌbəljuː siː 'eɪ/ Young Women's Christian Association; an organization in many countries which provides places to stay and sports centres for young women, esp. in large cities, and is also concerned with their spiritual well-being —see also YMCA

Z

Z, z /zed‖zi:/ **Z's, z's** *or* **Zs, zs** **1** the 26th and last letter of the English alphabet **2 catch some Z's** *AmE, sl* to go to sleep: *I'm going to catch some Z's.*

zab·a·glio·ne /ˌzæbəlˈjəʊniˌzɑ:-/ *n* [U] an Italian sweet dish made from a mixture of egg, sugar, and wine

Za·greb /ˈzɑ:greb/ capital city of Croatia

Za·ïre /zaɪˈɪəʳ‖zɑ:-/ a country in central Africa, formerly known as the **Belgian Congo**; capital Kinshasa; population 35,330,000 (1990) —**Zaïrean, Zaïrian, Zaïrese** /ˌzaɪəˈri:z◂/ *adj, n*

Zam·be·zi , Zambesi /zæmˈbi:zi/ [*the*] a large river in S central Africa which includes the Victoria Falls and the Kariba Dam

Zam·bi·a /ˈzæmbiə/ a country in S central Africa, an independent member of the British Commonwealth since 1964, and rich in minerals, esp. copper. Its former name was **Northern Rhodesia**; capital Lusaka; population 7,804,000 (1989). —**Zambian** *adj, n*

Zam·en·hof /ˈzæmənhɒf‖ˈzɑ:mənhəʊf/, **Laz·a·rus** /ˈlæzərəs/ (1859–1917) a Polish teacher and student of human language who invented the artificial international language Esperanto

za·ny /ˈzeɪni/ *adj* foolish in an amusing or ABSURD way: *Michael made us all laugh with his zany tricks.*

Zan·zi·bar /ˈzænzəbɑ:ʳ/ a TERRITORY in E Africa which joined with Tanganyika to form Tanzania in 1964; capital Zanzibar

zap[1] /zæp/ *n* [U] *infml apprec* liveliness; ENERGY —**~py** *adj* : *a zappy poster|English teacher|lesson*

zap[2] *v infml* **1** [T] to attack or destroy, esp. in a computer game or VIDEO **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) move quickly or forcefully: *She zapped (the car) from a standstill to 70 miles per hour in 10 seconds.* | (fig.) *I'll have to zap through the work to make the deadline.* **3** [T] *AmE* to cook in a MICROWAVE oven: *Zap that for about two minutes on high, will you?* **4** [T] to operate a television REMOTE CONTROL —see also ZAPPER

Za·pa·ta /zəˈpɑ:tə/, **E·mi·li·a·no** /eˌmi:liˈɑ:nəʊ/ (about 1879–1919) a Mexican fighter against the government, who led an army of Mexican Indians in a largely successful attempt to take back land taken away from them by the authorities, but who was later killed

Zap·pa /ˈzæpə/, **Frank** (1940–93) an American singer and songwriter of the 1960s and 1970s who, along with his band the **Mothers of Invention**, was associated with the HIPPIE movement

zap·per /ˈzæpəʳ/ *n AmE infml* REMOTE CONTROL (2)

Zar·a·thus·tra /ˌzærəˈθu:strə/ see ZOROASTER

Zat·o·pek /ˈzætəpek/, **Em·il** /ˈemi:l/ (1922–) a Czech ATHLETE who broke several world records and won many races in the 1948 and 1952 OLYMPIC GAMES

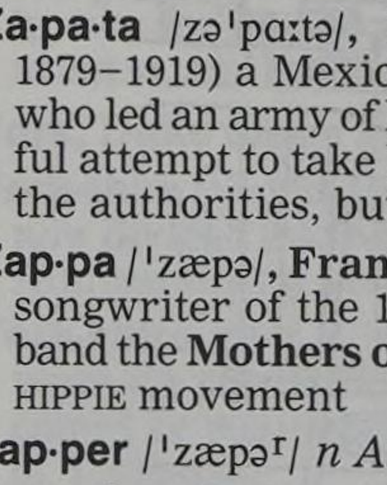
Z Cars /ˈzed kɑ:z‖-kɑ:rz/ a British television SERIES shown in the 1960s and 70s about the police force

zeal /zi:l/ *n* [U] *fml* eagerness; keenness: *religious|revolutionary zeal*

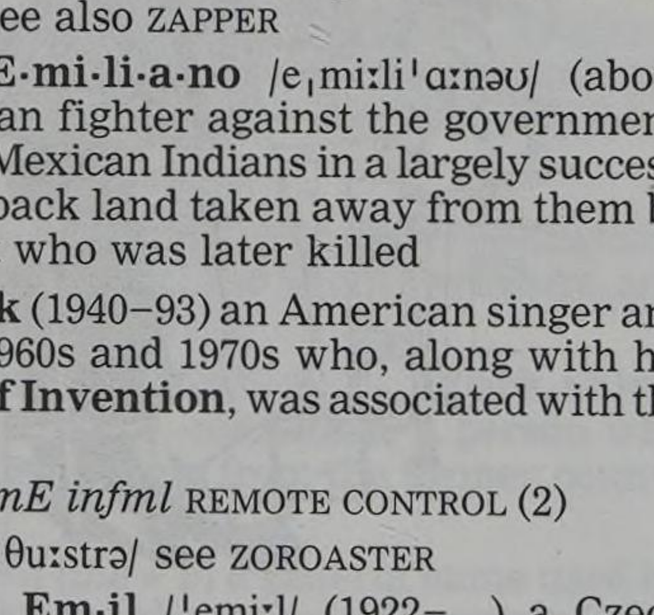
zeal·ot /ˈzelət/ *n usu. derog* someone who is too eager in their beliefs and tries to make other people share them: *religious zealots*

zeal·ous /ˈzeləs/ *adj fml, usu. apprec* eager; keen: *zealous missionaries | She is always zealous in performing her duties.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

zebra



zebra



zebra crossing

ze·bra /ˈzi:brə, ˈze-‖ˈzi:brə/ *n* **-bra** *or* **-bras** an African animal that looks like a horse with broad black or dark brown and white lines all over its body

zebra cross·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* (in Britain) a place on a busy street, painted with black and white lines to show that PEDESTRIANS (=people walking in the street) have the right to cross before vehicles —compare PELICAN CROSSING and see picture at ZEBRA

zed /zed/ *BrE* ‖ **zee** /zi:/*AmE*— *n* (the name of) the letter Z

Zee·brug·ge /zeɪˈbrʊgə, zi:-/ a sea port in N Belgium, a main crossing point for ferries (FERRY[1]) to Britain, remembered as the port which the ferry **Herald of Free Enterprise** had just left when she sank in March 1987 with heavy loss of life

Zef·fi·rel·li /ˌzefəˈreli/, **Fran·co** /ˈfræŋkəʊ/ (1923–) an Italian director of film, theatre and OPERA productions. His films include *Jesus of Nazareth* and *Romeo and Juliet.*

Zeiss /zaɪs/ *tdmk* a German company making LENSes for glasses, microscopes, and other OPTICAL instruments

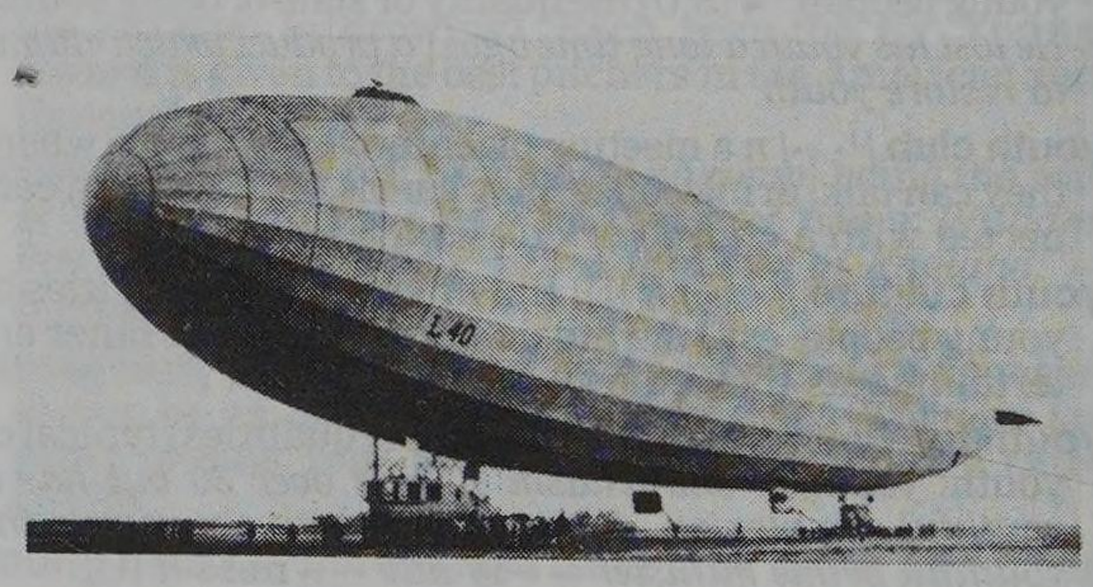
zeit·geist /ˈzaɪtgaɪst/ [*the*] *Ger* (*often cap.*) the general spirit of a period in history, as shown in people's ideas and beliefs

Zen /zen/ also **Zen Buddhism** *n* [U] a Japanese form of Buddhism stating that one must look inside oneself for understanding rather than depend on holy writings, and aiming for ENLIGHTENMENT (2) through MEDITATION (=practice of emptying the mind of thought or fixing the attention on one matter)

zen·ith /ˈzenəθ‖ˈzi:-/ *n* **1** [*the*+S] the point in the sky directly above a person looking from Earth **2** [C *usu. sing.*] the highest or greatest point of development, hope, fortune, etc.: *Opera reached its zenith at the turn of the century.*

zeph·yr /ˈzefəʳ/ *n poet* a soft gentle west wind

zeppelin



zep·pe·lin /ˈzepəlɪn/ *n* a large AIRSHIP used by the Germans in the First World War

Zer·matt /ˈzɜ:mæt‖zeərˈmɑ:t/ a holiday RESORT in the Swiss Alps, popular for climbing and winter sports

ze·ro[1] /ˈzɪərəʊ‖ˈzi:rəʊ/ *n* **-ros** *or* **-roes** **1** (the name of) the sign 0 and of the number it stands for **2** the point between + and − on a scale; on the CELSIUS scale, the temperature at which water freezes: *It was five degrees below zero last night.* | *sub-zero temperatures* —see also ABSOLUTE ZERO **3** (often written **0**) nothing; no size or quantity: *Our population has reached* **zero growth**. (=it is not growing any more) | *zero value*

▷ USAGE In saying a number, zero is generally used for 0 in science. **O**, pronounced "Oh", is generally used after a decimal point, as in 1.04, and in telephone numbers. A British speaker might use **nought**, esp. before and after a decimal point, as in 0.06; and might use **nil**, esp. in sports results: *The teams drew* **nil-nil**. An American speaker would usu. use **zero** or **0** in either of these situations, or, in sports results **nothing** or **none**: *Their team won, five to nothing.*◁

zero[2] *v*

zero in on sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to aim gunfire or similar weapons directly at **2** to aim one's attention directly towards

zero cou·pon bond /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a BOND[1](3) sold at a DISCOUNT which does not pay interest but which can be exchanged for its full value after a stated time. Zero coupon bonds have tax advantages in some situations.

zero hour /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] the hour at which an action or esp.

military operation is planned to begin: *Zero hour is fixed for midnight.*

zero-sum game /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a situation in which a balance is achieved between something (such as money) received and something given away: *Diplomatic negotiators often aim at a zero-sum game, where they don't give away any more than they get.*

zest /zest/ *n* **1** [S;U] (a quality of) being pleasantly exciting and interesting; SPICE[1] (2): *The danger of being caught gave/added a certain zest to the affair.* **2** [S;U] (a feeling of) being eager: *a zest for life* **3** [U] *BrE* ‖ **peel** *AmE*– the outer skin of an orange or LEMON used for giving a special taste to food, esp. when it is grated (GRATE) and used in making cakes –~**ful** *adj* –~**fully** *adv*

Zeus /zjuːs‖zuːs/ (in Greek MYTHOLOGY) the king and father of the gods, like the Roman **Jupiter**

Zhao Zi·yang /ˌdʒaʊ ˌdzɜːˈjæŋ‖-ˈjɑːŋ/ (1918–) a Chinese politician, PRIME MINISTER from 1980 and secretary of the Chinese Communist Party 1987–89. His LIBERAL views led to his DOWNFALL after the Tiananmen Square MASSACRE in Beijing in 1989.

Zhivago, Doctor see DOCTOR ZHIVAGO

Zhong-shan see SUN ZHONG-SHAN

Zhou En·lai /ˌdʒəʊ ˌenˈlaɪ/ (1898–1976) a Chinese politician, also known as **Chou En-lai**, who was PRIME MINISTER from 1949 to 1976

Zia ul-Haq /ˌzɪə ʊl ˈhæk‖-ˈhɑːk/, **General Mohammad** (1924–88) the president of Pakistan from 1977 until his death. He introduced a period of FUNDAMENTALIST Islamic rule and led the COUP against Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1977.

Zieg·feld /ˈzɪgfeld, ˈziːg-/, **Flor·enz** /ˈflɒrənz‖ˈflɔː-/ (1869–1932) an American theatre producer who arranged a REVUE every year called **the Follies**, from 1907 to 1931

zig·zag[1] /ˈzɪgzæg/ *n* a line shaped like a row of z's: *a zigzag path* –see picture at PATTERN

zigzag[2] *v* **-gg-** [I] to go in a zigzag: *The path zigzags up the hill.*

zilch /zɪltʃ/ *adj, n AmE, infml* zero; none; nothing: *How much money is left?" "Zilch." | "Did we have any enquiries?" "Zilch."*

zil·lion /ˈzɪljən/ also **zillions** *pl.*– *n* [**(of)**] *infml* an extremely large number: *zillions of mosquitoes*

Zim·ba·bwe /zɪmˈbɑːbweɪ/ a country in S central Africa, officially called the **Republic of Zimbabwe**, which as Rhodesia was a British COLONY (1) until it declared its independence in 1965. It became a legally independent member of the British Commonwealth in 1980; capital Harare; population 9,122,000 (1989). –**Zimbabwean** *n, adj*

Zim·mer /ˈzɪməʳ/ also **Zimmer frame** /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n BrE tdmk* a type of frame used to help esp. old or ill people to walk: *I'm not that old! I don't need a Zimmer frame yet!* – compare WALKER (2)

zinc /zɪŋk/ *n* [U] a bluish-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT) used in the production of other metals, and to PLATE (=cover) metal objects with a protective surface

zing /zɪŋ/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* liveliness; ZIP[1] (2)

Zin·ne·man /ˈzɪnəmən/, **Fred·e·rick** /ˈfredərɪk/ (1907–) an American film director, born in Austria, famous for films such as *High Noon* and *The Day of the Jackal*

Zi·on /ˈzaɪn/ **1** the name given to a Jewish homeland, either Israel or an imagined nation where Jews could live in peace **2** *poet* heaven

Zi·on·is·m /ˈzaɪənɪzəm/ *n* [U] the political movement to establish and develop an independent state of Israel for the Jews –**-ist** *adj, n* : *a group of young Zionists*

zip[1] /zɪp/ *n* **1** [C] also **zip fas·ten·er** /ˌ· ˈ···/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **zipper** *esp. AmE*– a fastener made of two sets of metal or plastic teeth and a sliding piece that joins the edges of an opening in material by drawing the teeth together – see picture at FASTENER **2** [U] *infml apprec* liveliness; ENERGY **3** [S] *infml* a zipping (ZIP[2] (3)) sound: *We heard the zip of a bullet.* **4** [S] *AmE, infml* zero; nothing; none: *We beat them 10 to zip. | "How much money have you got left." "Zip."*

zip[2] *v* **-pp-** **1** [T+*obj*+*adj*] to put into the stated condition with a zip: *He zipped the bag open/shut.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to (cause to) move very quickly and forcefully: *We zipped through customs. | They zipped the order through. | The minutes simply zipped past.* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to travel with a hissing (HISS) sound: *The bullet zipped through the air.*

zip sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to fasten (something or a person into something) with a zip: *Will you zip me up/zip up my dress?* –opposite **unzip**

zip code /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* POSTCODE

zip·per /ˈzɪpəʳ/ *n esp. AmE* a zip –see picture at FASTENER

zip·py /ˈzɪpi/ *adj infml apprec* lively and ENERGETIC

zit /zɪt/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a spot on the skin; PIMPLE

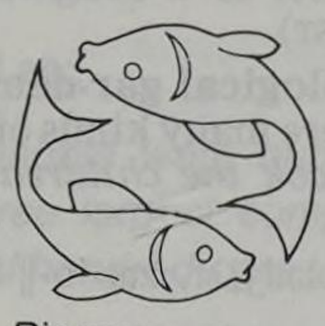
zith·er /ˈzɪðəʳ/ *n* a flat musical instrument with 30–40 strings, played with the fingers or with a PLECTRUM (=small piece of plastic)

zizz /zɪz/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* a short sleep: *Father's* **having/taking a zizz** *after lunch.*

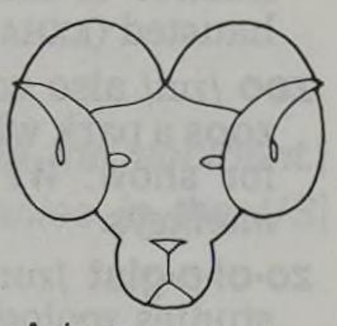
zodiac



Aquarius
21 Jan - 19 Feb



Pisces
20 Feb - 20 Mar



Aries
21 Mar - 20 Apr



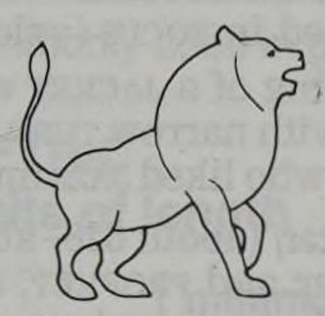
Taurus
21 Apr - 22 May



Gemini
23 May - 21 June



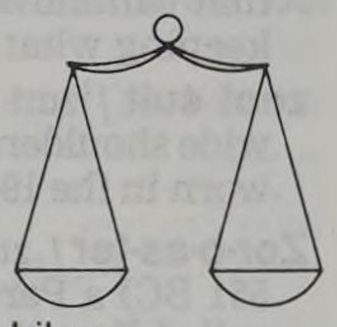
Cancer
22 June - 22 July



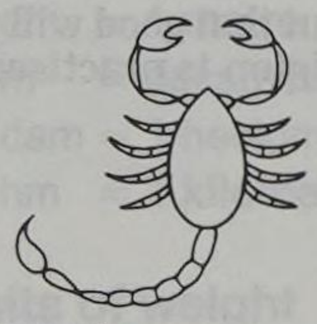
Leo
23 July - 22 Aug



Virgo
23 Aug - 22 Sept



Libra
23 Sept - 22 Oct



Scorpio
23 Oct - 21 Nov



Sagittarius
22 Nov - 22 Dec



Capricorn
23 Dec - 20 Jan

the signs of the zodiac

zo·di·ac /ˈzəʊdiæk/ *n* **1** [*the*] an imaginary belt through space along which the sun, the moon, and the nearest PLANETS appear to travel and which is divided into 12 equal parts (SIGNS), each named after a group (CONSTELLATION) of stars which were once in them: *Which sign of the zodiac were you born under?* –see USAGE **2** [C] a circular representation of this with pictures and names for each of the 12 signs of the zodiac, esp. as used by people who believe in the influence of the stars on people's character and fate –see also HOROSCOPE –~**al** /zəʊˈdaɪəkəl/ *adj*

▷ USAGE The signs of the **zodiac** are used in **astrology**. The signs are: **Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius,** and **Capricorn.**◁

Zo·la /ˈzəʊlə/, **Em·ile** /ˈemiːl/ (1840–1902) a French writer of NOVELS such as *Nana* and *Germinal* which describe French life in a natural and very detailed way

zom·bie , -bi /ˈzɒmbi‖ˈzɑːm-/ *n* **1** *derog* someone who moves very slowly, behaves in a lifeless way, etc. **2** (according to certain African and Caribbean religions) a dead person who is made to move by magic

zon·al /ˈzəʊnl/ *adj* of or arranged in zones —~**ly** *adv*

zone[1] /zəʊn/ *n* **1** a division or area marked off from others by particular qualities or activities: *a war|danger|time zone | an economic zone* **2** *tech* any of the five divisions of the Earth's surface according to temperature, marked by imaginary lines running round it from east to west: *the* **torrid zone**, *the two* **temperate zones** *and the two* **frigid zones**

zone[2] *v* [T] **1** to divide into ZONES[1] (1) **2** [**(as, for)**] to give a special purpose to (an area in a town, etc.): *This part of the town has been zoned as a shopping area|for industrial development.*

zon·ing /ˈzəʊnɪŋ/ *n* [U] the choosing of areas to be developed for different purposes when planning a town

zonked /zɒŋkt‖zɑːŋkt/ *adj* [(F OUT)] *sl* **1** under the influence of alcohol or a drug **2** extremely tired; exhausted (EXHAUST)

zoo /zuː/ also **zoological gar·dens** /ˌ····· ˈ··/ [P] *fml*— *n* **zoos** a park where many kinds of wild animals are kept for show: *We took the children to the zoo to see the monkeys.*

zo·ol·o·gist /zuːˈɒlədʒɨst, zəʊˈɒ-‖-ˈɑːl-/ *n* a person who studies zoology

zo·ol·o·gy /zuːˈɒlədʒi, zəʊˈɒ-‖-ˈɑːl-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the different kinds of animals, and of where and how they live —**-gical** /ˌzuːəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂, ˌzəʊə-‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj*

zoom[1] /zuːm/ *v* [I] **1** [*+adv|prep*] *infml* to go quickly with a loud noise: *Jack went zooming past in his new car.* **2** *infml* to increase suddenly and quickly: *The cost of living has zoomed.* **3** [*+adv|prep*, esp. IN (**on**), OUT] (of a cinema camera) to move quickly between a distant and a close view: *The camera zoomed in on the child's face.*

zoom[2] *n* [S] (the deep low sound of) the fast movement of a vehicle

zoom lens /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a photographic LENS (=curved glass) that can move in from a distant to a close view while keeping what is being photographed in FOCUS (=clear)

zoot suit /ˈzuːt suːt/ *n* a suit consisting of a JACKET with wide shoulders, and wide trousers with narrow TURN-UPS, worn in the 1940s and 50s by people who liked JAZZ music

Zor·o·as·ter /ˌzɒrəʊˈæstəʳ‖ˈzɔːrəʊæstər/ (about 628–about 551 BC) a Persian religious teacher and PROPHET, also called **Zarathustra**, who started Zoroastrianism

Zor·o·as·tri·a·nis·m /ˌzɒrəʊˈæstriənɪzəm‖ˌzɔːr-/ *n* [U] an ancient Persian religion which believes that the forces of good and evil are always fighting but that good will win in the end, helped by man. The religion is practised by the Parsees in India and Iran.

Zor·ro /ˈzɒrəʊ ‖ ˈzɔː-/ a character in a series of American films who wore a black MASK and CLOAK, and protected people from crime. He rode a horse and is known esp. for writing a letter Z in the air with his sword.



zuc·chi·ni /zʊˈkiːni/ *n* **-ni** *or* **-nis** *AmE, It for* COURGETTE — see picture at VEGETABLE

Zu·lu /ˈzuːluː/ *adj* of the language or people of Zululand in South Africa

Zul·u·land /ˈzuːluːlænd/ a HOMELAND of the Zulu people in South Africa

Zu·ñi, Zuni /ˈzuːni/ *n* a Native American people of western New Mexico, known for their fine usu. silver jewellery, and for their dances and dress during their religious celebrations

Zü·rich /ˈzʊərɪk/ a city in Switzerland; a world banking centre

zwie·back /ˈzwiːbæk‖ˈzwaɪ-/ *n* [U] *AmE tdmk* a kind of hard dry bread which has been baked twice, often given to babies when they are getting their first teeth: *Willa Jean blew bubbles filled with wet Zwieback crumbs and laughed delightedly.*

ZZ top /ˌziː ˌziː ˈtɒp‖-ˈtɑːp/ an American popular music group whose two main singers have very long hair and beards, and wear SUNGLASSES

zzz



zzz (used in pictures for showing that someone is asleep or snoring (SNORE))

1 Numbers

How numbers are spoken

Numbers over 20

21 twenty-one
22 twenty-two
32 thirty-two
99 ninety-nine

Numbers over 100

101 a/one hundred (and) one
121 a/one hundred (and) twenty-one
200 two hundred
232 two hundred (and) thirty-two
999 nine hundred (and) ninety-nine

Note: In British English the "and" is always used: *two hundred and thirty-two.* But in American English it is often left out: *two hundred thirty-two.*

Numbers over 1000

1001 a/one thousand (and) one
1121 one thousand one hundred (and) twenty-one
2000 two thousand
2232 two thousand two hundred (and) thirty-two
9999 nine thousand nine hundred (and) ninety-nine

Ordinal numbers

20th twentieth
21st twenty-first
25th twenty-fifth
90th ninetieth
99th ninety-ninth
100th hundredth
101st hundred and first
225th two hundred (and) twenty-fifth

Dates

1624 sixteen twenty-four
1903 nineteen-oh-three
1987 nineteen eighty-seven

What numbers represent

Numbers are often used on their own to show:

Price *It cost eight seventy-five* (= 8 pounds 75 pence or 8 dollars 75 cents: £8.75 or $8.75).

Time *We left at two twenty-five* (= 25 minutes after 2 o'clock).

Age *She's forty-six* (= 46 years old).|*He's in his sixties* (= between 60 and 69 years old).

Size *This shirt is a thirty-eight* (= size 38).

Temperature *The temperature fell to minus fourteen* (= −14°).|*The temperature was in the mid-thirties* (= about 34–36°).

The score in a game *Becker won the first set six-three* (= by six games to three: 6–3).

Something marked with the stated number *She played two nines and an eight* (= playing cards marked with these numbers).

A set or group of the stated number *The teacher divided us into fours* (= groups of 4).|*You can buy cigarettes in tens or twenties* (= in packets containing 10 or 20)

Numbers and grammar

Numbers can be used as:

Determiners *Five people were hurt in the accident.*|*the three largest companies in the US*|*several hundred cars*

Pronouns *We invited a lot of people but only twelve came/only twelve of them came.*|*Do exercise five on page nine.*

Nouns *Six can be divided by two and three.*|*Three twos make six.*

See also NUMBER (USAGE)

2 Weights and measures

The words in **dark type** are the ones that are most commonly used in general speech.

METRIC

Units of length

	1 **millimetre**	= 0.03937 inch
10 mm	= 1 **centimetre**	= 0.3937 inch
10 cm	= 1 decimetre	= 3.937 inches
10 dm	= 1 **metre**	= 39.37 inches
10 m	= decametre	= 10.94 yards
10 dam	= 1 hectometre	= 109.4 yards
10 hm	= 1 **kilometre**	= 0.6214 mile

Units of weight

	= 1 **milligram**	= 0.015 grain
10 mg	= 1 centigram	= 0.154 grain
10 cg	= 1 decigram	= 1.543 grains
10 dg	= 1 **gram**	= 15.43 grains = 0.035 ounces
10 g	= 1 decagram	= 0.353 ounce
10 dag	= 1 hectogram	= 3.527 ounces
10 hg	= 1 **kilogram**	= 2.205 pounds
1000 kg	= 1 **tonne**	= 0.984 (long) ton
	(metric ton)	= 2204.62 pounds

Units of capacity

	1 millilitre	= 0.00176 pint
10 ml	= 1 centilitre	= 0.0176 pint
10 cl	= 1 decilitre	= 0.176 pint
10 dl	= 1 **litre**	= 1.76 pints = 0.22 UK gallon
10 l	= decalitre	= 2.20 gallons
10 dal	= 1 hectolitre	= 22.0 gallons
10 hl	= 1 kilolitre	= 220.0 gallons

Square measure

1 square millimetre = 0.00155 square inch
100 mm^2 = 1 square centimetre = 0.1550 square inch
10 cm^2 = 1 square metre = 1.196 square yards
100 m^2 = 1 are = 119.6 square yards
100 ares = 1 **hectare** = 2.471 acres
100 ha = 1 square kilometre = 247.1 acres

Cubic measure

1 cubic centimetre = 0.06102 cubic inch
1000 cm^3 = 1 cubic decimetre = 0.03532 cubic foot
1000 dm^3 = 1 cubic metre = 1.308 cubic yards

Circular measure

1 microradian = 0.206 seconds
1000 μrad = 1 milli-radian = 3.437 minutes
1000 mrad = 1 radian = 57.296 degrees = $180/_{\mu}$ degrees

Metric prefixes

	Abbreviation	*Factor*
tera-	T	10^{12}
giga-	G	10^{9}
mega-	M	10^{6}
kilo-	k	10^{3}
hecto-	h	10^{2}
deca-	da	10^{1}
deci-	d	10^{-1}
centi-	c	10^{-2}
milli-	m	10^{-3}
micro-	μ	10^{-6}
nano-	n	10^{-9}
pico-	p	10^{-12}
femto-	f	10^{-15}
atto-	a	10^{-18}

BRITISH AND AMERICAN

Units of length

1 **inch** = 2.54 cm
12 inches = 1 **foot** = 0.3048 m
3 feet = 1 **yard** = 0.9144 m
5½ yards = 1 rod, pole, or perch = 5.029 m
22 yards = 1 chain = 20.12 m
10 chains = 1 furlong = 0.2012 km
3 furlongs = 1 **mile** = 1.609 km
6076.12 feet = 1 nautical mile = 1852 m

Units of weight

1 grain = 64.8 mg
1 dram = 1.772 g
16 drams = 1 **ounce** = 28.35 g
16 ounces = 1 **pound** = 0.4536 kg
14 pounds = 1 stone = 6.350 kg
2 stones = 1 quarter = 12.70 kg
4 quarters = 1 (long) **hundredweight** = 50.80 kg
20 hundredweight = 1 (long) **ton** = 1.016 tonnes
100 pounds = 1 (short) **hundredweight** = 45.36 kg
2000 pounds = 1 (short) **ton** = 0.9072 tonnes

The short hundredweight and ton are more common in the US.

Units of capacity

1 fluid ounce = 28.41 cm^3
5 fluid ounces = 1 gill = 0.1421 dm^3
4 gills = 1 **pint** = 0.5683 dm^3
2 pints = 1 **quart** = 1.137 dm^3
4 quarts = 1 (UK) **gallon** = 4.546 dm^3
231 cubic inches = 1 (US) **gallon** = 3.785 dm^3
8 gallons = 1 bushel = 36.369 dm^3

Square measure

1 square inch = 645.16 mm^2
144 square inches = 1 square foot = 0.0929 m^2
9 square feet = 1 square yard = 0.8361 m^2
4840 square yards = 1 acre = 4047 m^2
640 acres = 1 square mile = 259 ha

Cubic measure

1 cubic inch = 16.39 cm^3
1728 cubic inches = 1 cubic foot = 0.02832 m^3
= 28.32 dm^3
27 cubic feet = 1 cubic yard = 0.7646 m^3
= 764.6 dm^3

Circular measure

1 second = 4.860 $_{\mu}$rad
60 seconds = 1 minute = 0.2909 $_{\mu}$rad
60 minutes = 1 degree = 17.45 $_{\mu}$rad
= $_{\mu}/180$ rad
45 degrees = 1 oxtant = $_{\mu}/4$ rad
60 degrees = 1 sextant = $_{\mu}/3$ rad
90 degrees = 1 quadrant or 1 right angle = $_{\mu}/2$ rad
360 degrees = 1 circle or 1 circumference = 2_{μ} rad
1 grade or gon = 1/100th of a right angle = $_{\mu}/200$ rad

US dry measure

1 pint = 0.9689 UK pint = 0.5506 dm^3
1 bushel = 0.9689 UK bushel = 35.238 dm^3

US liquid measure

1 fluid ounce = 1.0408 UK fluid ounces
= 0.0296 dm^3
16 fluid ounces = 1 pint = 0.8327 UK pint
= 0.4732 dm^3
8 pints = 1 gallon = 0.8327 UK gallon
= 3.7853 dm^3

Temperature

$$^{\circ}\textit{Fahrenheit} = \left(\frac{9}{5}\,^{\circ}\text{C}\right) + 32$$

$$^{\circ}\textit{Celsius} = \frac{5}{9}\left(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32\right)$$

3 Military ranks

Royal Navy	US Navy	RAF	USAF
Admiral of the Fleet	Fleet Admiral	Marshal of the Royal Air Force	General of the Airforce
Admiral	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal	General
Vice-Admiral	Vice-Admiral	Air Marshal	Lieutenant General
Rear-Admiral	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal	Major General
Commodore	Commodore	Air Commodore	Brigadier General
Captain	Captain	Group Captain	Colonel
Commander	Commander	Wing Commander	Lieutenant Colonel
Lieutenant-Commander	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader	Major
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant	Captain
Sub-Lieutenant	Lieutenant Junior Grade	Flying Officer	First Lieutenant
Midshipman	Ensign	Pilot Officer	Second Lieutenant
–	Chief Warrant Officer	–	Chief Warrant Officer
Fleet Chief Petty Officer	Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer	Chief Master Sergeant
–	Master Chief Petty Officer	–	Senior Master Sergeant
–	Senior Chief Petty Officer	Flight Sergeant	Master Sergeant
Chief Petty Officer	Chief Petty Officer	Chief Technician	Technical Sergeant
Petty Officer	Petty Officer 1st Class	Sergeant	Staff Sergeant
–	Petty Officer 2nd Class	Corporal	Airman 1st Class
Leading Seaman	Petty Officer 3rd Class	Junior Technician	–
Able Seaman	Seaman	Senior Aircraftman	Airman 2nd Class
Ordinary Seaman	Seaman Apprentice	Leading Aircraftman	Airman 3rd Class
Junior Seaman	Seaman Recruit	Aircraftman	Airman Basic

British Army	US Army	Royal Marines	US Marine Corps
Field-Marshal	General of the Army	General	General
General	General	Lieutenant-General	Lieutenant General
Lieutenant-General	Lieutenant General	Major-General	Major General
Major-General	Major General	Brigadier	Brigadier General
Brigadier	Brigadier General	Colonel	Colonel
Colonel	Colonel	Lieutenant-Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
Lieutenant-Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Major
Major	Major	Captain	Captain
Captain	Captain	Lieutenant	1st Lieutenant
Lieutenant	1st Lieutenant	2nd Lieutenant	2nd Lieutenant
2nd Lieutenant	2nd Lieutenant	–	Chief Warrant Officer
–	Chief Warrant Officer	–	–
Warrant Officer 1st Class	Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer 1st Class	Warrant Officer
Warrant Officer 2nd Class	–	Warrant Officer 2nd Class	–
Staff Sergeant	Sergeant Major	Colour Sergeant	Sergeant Major
–	–	–	Master Gunnery Sergeant
Sergeant	Master Sergeant		
–	1st Sergeant	Sergeant	Master Sergeant
–	Sergeant 1st Class	–	1st Sergeant
–	Staff Sergeant	–	Gunnery Sergeant
–	Sergeant	–	Staff Sergeant
Corporal	Corporal	–	Sergeant
Lance Corporal	Private 1st Class	Corporal	Corporal
Private	Private	–	Lance Corporal
		Lance Corporal	Private 1st Class
		Marine	Private

4 Word formation

In English there are many word beginnings (prefixes) and word endings (suffixes) that can be added to a word to change its meaning or its word class. The most common ones are shown here, with examples of how they are used in the process of word formation. Many more are listed on the pages that follow.

Verb formation

The endings **-ize** and **-ify** can be added to many nouns and adjectives to form verbs, like this:

-ize

American Americanize
legal legalize
modern modernize
popular popularize

They want to make the factory more **modern**. *They want to* **modernize** *the factory.*

-ify

beauty beautify
liquid liquefy
pure purify
simple simplify

These tablets make the water **pure**. *They* **purify** *the water.*

Adverb formation

The ending **-ly** can be added to most adjectives to form adverbs, like this:

-ly

easy easily
main mainly
quick quickly
stupid stupidly

His behaviour was **stupid**. *He behaved* **stupidly**.

Noun formation

The endings **-er**, **-ment**, and **-ation** can be added to many verbs to form nouns, like this:

-er

drive driver
fasten fastener
open opener
teach teacher

John **drives** *a bus. He is a bus* **driver**.
A can **opener** *is a tool for* **opening** *cans.*

-ment

amaze amazement
develop development
pay payment
retire retirement

Children **develop** *very quickly. Their* **development** *is very quick.*

-ation

admire admiration
associate association
examine examination
organize organization

The doctor **examined** *me carefully. He gave me a careful* **examination**.

The endings **-ity** and **-ness** can be added to many adjectives to form nouns, like this:

-ity -ty

cruel cruelty
odd oddity
pure purify
stupid ` stupidity

Don't be so **cruel**. *I hate* **cruelty**.

-ness

dark darkness
deaf deafness
happy happiness
kind kindness

It was very **dark**. *The* **darkness** *made it impossible to see.*

Adjective formation

The endings **-y**, **-ic**, **-ical**, **-ful**, and **-less** can be added to many nouns to form adjectives, like this:

-y

bush bushy
dirt dirty
hair hairy
smell smelly

There was an awful **smell** *in the room. The room was very* **smelly**.

-ic -ical

atom atomic
biology biological
grammar grammatical
poetry poetic

This book contains exercises on **grammar**. *It contains* **grammatical** *exercises.*

-ful

pain painful
hope hopeful
care careful

His broken leg caused him a lot of **pain**. *It was very* **painful**.

-less

pain painless
hope hopeless
care careless

The operation didn't cause her any **pain**. *It was* **painless**.

The ending **-able** can be added to many verbs to form adjectives, like this:

-able

wash washable
love lovable
debate debatable
break breakable

You can **wash** *this coat. It's* **washable**.

Opposites

The following prefixes can be used in front of many words to produce an opposite meaning. Note, however, that the words formed in this way are not always EXACT opposites, and may have a slightly different meaning.

un-

happy unhappy
fortunate unfortunate
wind unwind
block unblock

I'm not very **happy**. *In fact I'm very* **unhappy**.

in-

efficient inefficient

im-

possible impossible

il-

literate illiterate

ir-

regular irregular

It's just not **possible** *to do that. It's* **impossible.**

dis-

agree disagree
approve disapprove
honest dishonest

I don't **agree** *with everything you said. I* **disagree** *with the last part.*

de-

centralize decentralize
increase decrease
ascend descend
inflate deflate

Increase *means to make or become larger in amount or number.* **Decrease** *means to make or become smaller in amount or number.*

non-

sense nonsense
payment nonpayment
resident nonresident
conformist nonconformist

The hotel serves meals to **residents** (= people who are staying in the hotel) *only.* **Nonresidents** *are not allowed in.*

a-[1] /ə/ **1** in the stated condition or way: *alive* (= living) |*aloud*|*with nerves all atingle* (= tingling) **2** *lit or old use* in, to, at, or on: *abed* (= in bed)|*afar* (= far away)

a-[2] /eɪ, æ, ɔ/ (showing an opposite or the absence of something) not; without: *amoral* (= not moral)|*atypically* (= not typically)

aero- /eɔ rəʊ, eɔrɔ/ concerning the air or aircraft: *aerodynamics* (= science of movement through air)|*an aeroengine*

Afro- /æfrəʊ/ **1** of Africa; African: *an Afro-American* (= a black American person) **2** African and: *Afro-Asian* (= of both Africa and Asia)

after- /ɑ:ftəʳ‖æf-/ coming or happening afterwards: *aftercare* (= care given afterwards)|*a bottle of aftershave* (= liquid used on the face after shaving)

agro- /ægrɔʊ/ also **agri** /ægrɪ/ – concerning farming: *agrobiology*|*agribusiness*

all- /ɔ:l/ **1** consisting or made only of: *an all-male club*|*an all-wool dress* **2** for the whole of: *All-India Railways*|*an all-day event*|*an all-night party* (= lasting all night)|*an all-night cafe* (= staying open all night)

ambi- /æmbɪ/ both; double: *ambidextrous* (= using both hands equally well)|*ambiguous* (= having two meanings)

an- /ɔn, æn/ (*the form used for* A-[2] *before a vowel sound*) not; without: *anarchy* (= without government)|*anoxia* (= condition caused by lack of oxygen)

-andr- /ændr/ *tech* concerning males or men: *androgynous plants* (= plants which are both male and female) |*polyandry* (= having more than one husband at the same time)

Anglo- /æŋgləʊ/ (*sometimes not cap.*) **1** of England or Britain: *an anglophile* (= someone who loves Britain) **2** English or British and: *an Anglo-Scottish family*|*an improvement in Anglo-American relations*

ante- /æntɪ/ before: *to antedate* (= be earlier than)|*antenatal* (= before birth) – compare ANTI-, POST-, PRE-

anthropo- /ænθrəʊ, -pə/ *tech* like or concerning human beings: *anthropomorphic* (= having human form or qualities)

anti- /æntɪ‖æntɪ, æntaɪ/ also **ant-** /ænt/ **1** opposed to; against: *antinuclear* (= opposing the use of atomic weapons and power)|*anti-American* **2** opposite of: *an anticlimax* (= an unexciting ending instead of the expected CLIMAX)|*antimatter* (= made of material completely opposite in kind to the ordinary material in the universe) **3** acting to prevent the stated thing: *antifreeze* (= a liquid added to prevent freezing)|*antiseptic* (= to stop bacteria) – compare ANTE-, PRO-

■ USAGE In informal spoken English **anti** is sometimes used as a preposition: *She's very* **anti** *the present government.*|*My father's very* **anti** *pop music.* – see also PRO- (USAGE)

arch- /ɑ:tʃ, ɑ:k‖ɑ:r-/ of the highest class or rank; chief; main: *an archbishop* (= a chief BISHOP)|*our archenemy* (= our main or worst enemy)|*the company's archrivals* (= main competitors)

astro- /æstrəʊ, æstrə/ concerning the stars, the PLANETS, or space: *an astronaut* (= someone who travels in space)|*astrophysics* (= science of the stars)

Austro- /ɒstrəʊ‖ɔ:-, ɑ:-/ **1** Australian and: *Austro-Malayan* **2** Austrian and: *the Austro-Italian border*

auto- /ɔ:təʊ, ɔ:tə/ **1** of or by oneself: *an autobiography* (= book about one's own life, written by oneself) **2** working by itself without human operation: *an autopump*

be- /bɪ/ **1** (*in verbs*) to treat as the stated thing: *Don't belittle him.* (= say he is unimportant)|*She befriended me.* (= became my friend) **2** *esp. lit* (*in adjectives*) wearing the stated thing: *a bespectacled boy* (= wearing glasses) **3** *esp. lit or old use* (*in verbs*) completely; thoroughly: *to besmear* (= make very dirty)

bi- /baɪ/ two; twice; double: *bilingual* (= speaking two languages)|*to bisect* (= cut in two) – compare SEMI (3); see also DI-, TRI-

■ USAGE Expressions like **biweekly** can be confusing, because they can mean either "twice in one week/month/year" or "once in two weeks/months/years", depending on the situation in which they are used.

biblio- /bɪbliəʊ, bɪbliə/ concerning books: *a bibliophile* (= someone who likes books)

bio- /baɪəʊ, baɪə/ concerning living things: *biochemistry* (= study of the chemistry of living things)

by-, bye- /baɪ/ less important: *a by-product* (= something made in addition to the main product)|*a by-election* (= one held between regular elections)

cardio- /kɑ:diəʊ, kɑ:diə‖kɑ:r-/ also **cardi-** /kɑ:di‖kɑ:r-/ – *med* concerning the heart: *a cardiograph* (= instrument that measures movements of the heart)

centi- /sentɨ/ also **cent-** /sent/ – **1** 100: *a centipede* (= creature with 100 legs) **2** 100th part of the stated unit: *a centimetre* (= 0.01 metres)

chrono- /krɒnəʊ, krɒnə‖krɑ:-/ also **chron-** /krɒn‖krɑ:n/ – concerning time: *a chronometer* (= instrument for measuring time very exactly)

cine-/ /sɪni/ *esp. BrE* concerning films or the film industry: *a cinecamera* (= for making films)

circum- /sɜ:kəm‖sɜ:r-/ all the way round something: *to circumnavigate* (= sail round) *the world*|*to circumvent* (= avoid by finding a way round)

co- /kəʊ/ **1** together; with: *to coexist* (= exist together or at the same time)|*coeducation* (= of boys and girls together) **2** doing something with someone else **a** as an equal: *my coauthor* (= someone who wrote the book with me) **b** with less responsibility; ASSISTANT: *the copilot* (= someone who helps the pilot)

col- /kəl, kɒl‖kəl, kɑ:l/ (*the form used for* CON- *before* l): *to collaborate* (= work together)

com- /kəm, kɒm‖kə, kɑ:m/ (*the form used for* CON- *before* b, m, *or* p): *compassion* (= sympathy)

con- /kən, kɒn‖kən, kɑ:n/ together; with: *a confederation*|*to conspire* (= plan together)

contra- /kɒntrə‖kɑ:n-/ **1** acting to prevent the stated thing: *contraceptive devices* (= against CONCEPTION) **2** opposite: *plants in contradistinction to animals*

cor- /kə, kɒ‖kə, kɔ:, kɑ:/ (*the form used for* CON- *before* r): *to correlate* (= connect together)

counter- /kaʊntəʳ/ **1** the opposite of: *a counterproductive thing to do* (= producing results opposite to those intended) **2** matching: *my counterpart in the American system* (= someone in the American system who has the same job as mine) **3** done or given in return, esp. so as to oppose the original one: *proposals and counter proposals* **4** acting to prevent the stated thing: *a counterinsurgency strategy* (= to prevent INSURGENTS)

cross- /krɒs‖krɔ:s/ **1** going from one side to the other; across; *a cross-Channel ferry* (= sailing from Britain to France **2** going between the stated things and joining them: *cross-cultural influences*

crypto- /krɪptəʊ, krɪptə/ *fml derog* secret or hidden: *a crypto-Communist*

de- /di:, d:/ **1** (*in verbs and nouns*) (showing an opposite): *a depopulated area* (= which all or most of the population has left)|*deindustrialization* (= becoming less industrial) **2** (*esp. in verbs*) to remove or remove from the stated thing: *to debone a fish* (= remove its bones)|*to dethrone a king* (= remove him from power) **3** (*esp. in verbs*) to make less; reduce: *to devalue the currency*

deca- /dekə/ also **dec-** /dek/ – ten: *a decade* (= period of 10 years)|*the decathlon* (= sporting competition with 10 different events)

deci- /desɨ/ a 10th part of the stated unit: *a decilitre* (= 0.1 litres)

demi- /demɪ/ **1** half: *a demisemiquaver* (= very short musical note) **2** partly the stated thing: *a demigod* (= partly human and partly a god)

derm- /dɜ:m‖dɜ:rm/ *med* concerning the skin: *dermatitis* (= painful skin condition)

di- /daɪ, dɪ/ two; twice; double: *A diphthong is a vowel made up of two sounds.* – see also BI-

dis- /dɪs/ **1** (showing an opposite or negative): *I disapprove.* (= do not approve)|*his dishonesty* (= lack of

honesty)|*with a discontented look* **2** (shows the stopping or removing of the stated condition): *Disconnect the machine from the electricity supply.* (= so that it is no longer connected)|*Disinfect the wound.* **3** (*esp. in verbs*) to take away; remove: *a dismasted ship*

down- /daʊn/ **1** so as to be lower: *to downgrade a job* (= make it lower in importance)|*a downpour* (= heavy rain) **2** (*esp. in adverbs and adjectives*) at or towards the bottom or end: *downstairs*|*downriver* (= nearer to its mouth) **3** (*esp. in adverbs and adjectives*) at or towards the lower or worse part: *down-market* (= meeting the demand of the lower social groups) – compare UP-

electro- /ɪlektrəʊ, trə/ *tech* **1** concerning or worked by electricity: *to electrocute* (= kill by electricity)|*an electro-magnet* **2** electric and: *electro-chemical*

em- /em, ɪm/ (*the form used for* EN- *before* b, m, *or* p): *an embittered man* (= made bitter)

en- /en, ɪn/ (*esp. in verbs*) **1** to cause to become; make: *to enlarge*|*to enrich* **2** to put into the stated condition: *the endangering of life*

equi- /ekwə, i:kwə/ equal or equally: *equidistant*|*an equilateral triangle* (= with equal sides)

Euro- /jʊərəʊ/ **1** a European, esp. western European: *Eurocommunism* **b** European and: *Euro-American relations* **2** of the EEC: *the Europarliament*

ex- /eks/ former (and still living): *my ex-wife*|*the ex-minister*|*an ex-England cricketer* – compare LATE[1] (3, 4)

extra- /ekstrə/ outside, beyond: *extragalactic* (= outside our GALAXY)|*extramarital sex* (= between people who are not married to each other)

fore- /fɔ:r/ **1** in advance; before: *to forewarn* **2** placed at the front: *her forenames*|*a horse's forelegs* **3** the front part of the stated thing: *his strong forearms*

foster- /fɒstə[r]‖fɔ:-, fɑ:-/ giving or receiving parental care although not of the same family: *a foster-mother*|*a foster-son*|*a foster-home*|*Danny is my foster-brother.* (= we have different parents, but he is being brought up with me in my family)

Franco- /fræŋkəʊ/ **1** of France: French; *a Francophile* (= someone who loves France) **2** French and: *the Franco-Belgian border*

geo- /dʒi:əʊ, dʒɪə/ *tech* concerning the Earth or its surface: *geophysics*|*geopolitical*

Greco-, Graeco- /gri:kəʊ, grekəʊ/ **1** of ancient Greece, Greek **2** ancient Greek and: *Greco-Roman art*

gyn- /gaɪn/ *tech, esp. med* concerning women: *gynaecology* (= treatment of women's diseases)

hemo- /hi:mə, hemə/ *AmE for* HAEMO-

he- /hi:/ (of an animal) male: *a he-goat*

hecto- /hektəʊ/ 100 times the stated unit: *a hectometre* (= 100 metres)

haemo-, hemo- /hi:mə, hemə/ *med* concerning the blood: *a hemorrhage* (= bleeding)

hetero- /hetərəʊ, -rə/ *fml or tech* other; opposite; different: *heterosexual* (= attracted to the opposite sex)

homo- /həʊməʊ, hɒmə‖həʊməʊm hɑ:-/ *fml or tech* same: *homosexual* (= attracted to the same sex)|*homographs* (= words spelt the same way)

hydro- /haɪdrəʊ, haɪdrə/ **1** concerning or using water: *hydroelectricity* (= produced by water power)|*hydrotherapy* (= treatment of disease using water) **2** concerning or containing HYDROGEN: *hydrocarbons*

hyper- /haɪpə[r]/ more than usual, esp, too much: *hypersensitive* (= too sensitive)|*hyperactive children*|*an economy suffering from hyperinflation*

hypo- /haɪpəʊ, haɪpə/ *tech* less than usual, esp. too little: *dying of hypothermia* (= too low body temperature)

il- /ɪ/ (*the form used for* IN- *before* l): *illogical* (= not logical)

im- /ɪm/ (*the form used for* IN- *before* b, m, *or* p): *immobilize*|*impossible*

in- /ɪn/ (*esp. in adjectives and nouns*) (showing a negative, an opposite, or a lack) not: *insensitive* (= not sensitive) *inattention* (= lack of attention) – see UN- (USAGE)

Indo- /ɪndəʊ/ **1** of India; Indian **2** Indian and: *the Indo-Pakistan border*

infra- /ɪnfrə/ *tech* below in a range; beyond: *the infrared end of the spectrum* – compare ULTRA- (1)

inter- /ɪntə[r]/ between; among (a group): *interdepartmental* (= betweeen departments)|*to intermarry* (= marry someone of another race, religion, etc.)

intra- /ɪntrə/ *fml or tech* **1** inside; within: *intradepartmental* (= within a department)|*intracranial pressure* (= inside the head) **2** into: *an intravenous injection* (= into a VEIN)

intro- /ɪntrə/ into, esp. into the inside: *introspection* (= examining one's own feelings)

ir- /ɪ/ (*the form used for* IN- *before* r) not: *irregular* (= not regular)

iso- /aɪsəʊ, aɪsə/ *tech* the same all through or in every part; equal: *an isotherm* (= line joining places of equal temperature)

Italo- /ɪtæləʊ/ **1** of Italy; Italian **2** Italian and: *the Italo-Austrian border*

kilo- /kɪlə/ 1000 times the stated unit: *a kilogram* (= 1000 grams)

macro- /mækrəʊ/ *esp. tech* large, esp. concerning a whole system rather than particular parts of it: *macroeconomics* (= the study of large money systems, e.g. a country's) – compare MICRO-

mal- /mæl/ bad or badly: *a malformed* (= wrongly shaped) *limb*|*She maltreats her children.* (= treats them cruelly)

matri- /meɪtri, mætrə/ **1** concerning mothers: *matricide* (= killing one's mother) **2** concerning women: *a matriarchal society* (= controlled by women) – compare PATRI-

mega- /megə/ **1** a million times the stated unit: *a 100-megaton bomb* **2** *sl* unusually large or great: *Hollywood megastars*|*The film is set to earn megabucks.* (= an extremely large amount of money)

meta- /metə/ *esp. tech* beyond the ordinary or usual: *metaphysical* (= beyond ordinary physical things)

micro- /maɪkrəʊ, maɪkrə/ *esp. tech* extremely small: *a microcomputer*|*microelectronics* (= using extremely small electrical parts) – compare MACRO-, MINI-

mid- /mɪd/ middle: *She's in her mid-20s.* (= is about 25 years old)|*in mid-July*|*a cold midwinter night*|*at the midpoint of our holiday*

milli- /milə/ 1000th part of the stated unit: *a millilitre* (= 0.001 litres)

mini- /mɪni/ *infml* very small compared with others of its kind: *a minibreak* (= a short holiday)|*a miniskirt* (= very short) – compare MICRO-

mis- /mɪs/ **1** bad or badly: *misfortune* (= bad luck)|*to misbehave* **2** wrong or wrongly: *a miscalculation*|*to misunderstand* **3** (showing an opposite or the lack of something): *I mistrust* (= don't trust) *him.*

mock- /mɒk‖mɑ:k/ only pretendingly: *a mock-serious expression on her face*

mono- /mɒnəʊ, mɒnə‖mɑ:-/ one; single: *a monoplane* (= plane with only one wing on each side)|*a monolingual dictionary* (= dealing with only one language)

multi- /mʌltə/ more than one; many: *multicoloured* (= with many colours)|*a multistorey office block*

nano- /'nænəʊ/ an extremely small part of; extremely small: *a nanosecond*

neo- /ni:əʊ, ni:ə/ (*esp. in nouns and adjectives*) a recent or later kind of the stated former system, style, etc.; new: *neoclassical architecture* (= copying that of ancient Greece and Rome)|*neocolonialism* (= the control of other countries by large modern states)

neuro- /njʊərə‖nʊərə/ also **neur-** /njʊər‖nʊər/ – *med* concerning the nerves: *a neurosurgeon* (= who specializes in the body's nervous system)

non- /nɒn‖nɑ:n/ **1** (*esp. in adjectives and nouns*) (showing a negative) not: *a nonalcoholic drink*|*a nonsmoker* (= someone who does not smoke)|*a non-stick frying pan* (= which food does not stick to) – see UN- (USAGE) **2** *infml* (*esp. in nouns*) not deserving the stated name: *a non-event* (= something dull)|*It was a really bad book – a non-story with non-characters.*

nor'- /nɔ:ʳ/ *lit or tech* (used esp. by sailors) north: *nor'east*|*nor'west*

omni- /ɒmnɪ‖ɑ:m-/ *esp. fml or tech* everything or everywhere; all: *an omnivore* (= animal that eats all sorts of food)

osteo- /ɒstiəʊ, ɒstiə‖ɑ:s-/ *med* concerning bones: *osteoarthritis* (= disease of the joints)

out- /aʊt/ **1** (*in nouns and adjectives formed from verbs followed by* **out**): *an outbreak of flu* (from **break out**)|*outspoken comments* (from **speak out**)|*with outstretched hands* (from **stretch out**) **2** (*in nouns and adjectives*) outside; beyond: *an outhouse* (= small additional building)|*outlying areas* (= far from the centre) **3** (*in verbs*) **a** beyond; further: *She outlived her brother.* (= he died before her)|*He's outgrown his clothes.* (= become too big for them) **b** so as to be better than or defeat: *I can out-argue you any day.*

over- /əʊvəʳ/ **1** too much: *overpopulation*|*overcooked cabbage* **2** above; beyond; across: *overhanging branches*|*the overland route* (= not by sea or air) **3** outer; covering: *an overcoat* **4** additional: *working overtime* (= beyond the usual time)

paleo-, palaeo- /pæliəʊ‖prɪliəʊ/ *tech* extremely ancient, before historical times: *paleobotany*

pan- /pæn/ (*sometimes cap.*) including all: *pan-African unity*|*Pan-Arabism* (= political union of all Arabs)

para- /pærə/ **1** beyond: *the paranormal* (= strange unnatural events) **2** very similar to; (as if) copying: *terrorists wearing paramilitary uniforms*|*paratyphoid* **3** connected with and helping: *paramedical workers such as ambulance drivers*

patri- /peɪtrɪ, pætrɪ/ **1** concerning fathers: *patricide* (= killing one's father) **2** concerning men: *a patriarchal society* (= controlled by men) – compare MATRI-

penta- /pentə/ five: *a pentagon* (= shape with five sides)

phono- /fəʊnəʊ, fəʊnə. fɒn-‖fəʊn-, fɑ:n-/ also **phon-** /fən; *strong* fəʊn, fɒn‖fən; *strong* fəʊn, fɑ:n/ *tech* **1** concerning the voice or speech: *phonetics* (= science of speech sounds) **2** concerning sound: *a phonoreceptor* (= animal hearing organ)

photo- /fəʊtəʊ, fəʊtə/ **1** *tech* concerning light: *photosensitive paper* (= that changes when light acts on it) **2** concerning photography: *photojournalism* (= use of photographs in reporting news)

physio- /fɪziəʊ, fɪziə/ also **physi-** /fɪzi/ – **1** *tech* concerning nature and living things: *physiology* (study of how the body works) **2** physical: *physiotherapy* (= treatment using exercises, etc., rather than medicines)

politico- /pəlɪtɪkəʊ/ political and: *politico-scientific*

poly- /pɒlɪ‖pɑ:lɪ/ many: *polysyllabic* (= with three or more SYLLABLES)|*polyandry* (= having more than one husband at the same time)

post- /pəʊst/ later than; after: *postwar* (= after a war)|*to postpone* (= make later) – compare ANTE-, PRE-

pre- /pri:/ **1** before: *prewar* (= before a war) **2** in advance: *prearranged* – compare ANTE-, POST-

pro- /prəʊ/ **1** in favour of; supporting: *pro-American*|*the pro-abortion lobby* – compare ANTI- **2** *tech* acting in the place of: *the pro-vice-chancellor*

■ USAGE In informal spoken English **pro** is sometimes used as a preposition: *She's very* **pro** *the present government.* – see also ANTI- (USAGE)

proto- /prəʊtəʊ, prəʊtə/ also **prot-** /prəʊt/ – *esp. tech* first in time or order, and esp. having others come after it or develop from it; original: *the huge protogalaxy from which all the galaxies in the present-day universe developed*

pseudo- /sju:dəʊ‖su:-/ *derog or tech* not real; false: *pseudo-intellectuals* (= who pretend to be clever)|*He says astrology's just a pseudoscience.*

psycho- /saɪkəʊ, saɪkə/ also **psych-** /saɪk/ – *tech* concerning the mind, as opposed to the body: *psychotherapy* (= treatment of the mind)

quadri- /kwɒdrɪ‖kwɑ:-/ also **quadru-** /kwɒdrʊ‖kwɑ:-/, **quadr-** /kwɒdr‖kwɑ:-/ – four; four times: *quadrilateral* (= with four straight sides)|*a quadruped* (= an animal with four legs)

quasi- /kwɑ:zi, kweɪzaɪ/ **1** in some ways; partly: *the chairman's quasi-judicial role* (= acting in some ways like a judge) **2** *derog* PSEUDO-: *quasi-scientific ideas*

radio- /reɪdiəʊ/ also **radi-** /reɪdi/ – *tech* **1a** concerning waves of force, e.g. light, sound, or radio waves: *radiopaque* (= which waves will not pass through) **b** using radio waves: *a radiotelephone* (= working without wires)|*radiopaging* (= calling people by radio) **2** concerning RADIOACTIVITY: *radiochemistry* (= study of RADIOACTIVE chemicals)

re- /ri:/ (*esp. in verbs*) **1** again: *to rebroadcast a radio play* **2** again in a new and better way: *to rewrite a letter* **3** back to a former state: *After years of separation they were finally reunited.*

■ USAGE When **re-** is used with the meanings shown here, it is pronounced /ri:/. But it comes in many other words, such as **rebuke** and **respond**, where it does not have a separate meaning of its own, and in them it is usually pronounced /rɪ/ (or /ri/ before a vowel). Compare **recover** (= to get better) /rɪ'kʌvəʳ/ and **re-cover** (= to cover again) /ˌri:'kʌvəʳ/.

retro- /retrəʊ, retrə/ **1** back towards the past: *retroactive legislation* (= which has an effect on things already done)|*in retrospect* **2** back towards an earlier and worse state: *a retrograde step*|*to retrogress* **3** backwards: *a retrorocket* (= that fires backwards, opposite to the direction of travel)

Romano- /rəmɑ:nəʊ/ **1** of ancient Rome; Roman **2** ancient Roman and: *Romano-British art*

Russo- /rʌsəʊ/ **1** of Russia; Russian: *a Russophile* (= someone who loves Russia) **2** Russian and: *Russo-American trade*

self- /self/ **1** by means of oneself or itself: *He's self-taught.* (= He taught himself.)|*self-propelled* **2** of, to, with, for, or in oneself or itself: *a self-addressed envelope* (= which one addresses to oneself)|*a self-portrait* (= a picture of oneself, drawn, painted, etc. by oneself)|*self-restraint*

semi- /semɪ/ **1** exactly half: *a semicircle* **2** partly but not completely: *in the semidarkness*|*a semi-invalid*|*semi-literate people* **3** happening, appearing, etc. twice in the stated period: *a semiweekly visit*|*a semi-annual publication* – compare BI-

she- /ʃi:/ female: *a she-goat*|*a she-devil* (= evil woman)

Sino- /saɪnəʊ/ **1** of China; Chinese: *Sinology* (= study of China) **2** Chinese and: *Sino-Japanese trade*

socio- /səʊsiəʊ, -siə, səʊʃiəʊ, -ʃiə/ *esp. tech* **1** concerning society; social: *sociology* (= study of society) **2** social and: *sociopolitical*

step- /step/ related not by birth but through a parent who has remarried: *my stepfather* (= not my real father, but a man who has married my mother)|*her stepchildren*

sub- /sʌb/ **1** under; below: *subzero temperatures*|*subsoil* (= beneath the surface) **2** less important or powerful or of lower rank than: *a subcommittee*|*a sublieutenant* **3** part of the stated bigger whole: *a subsection* **4** *derog* similar to, but not as good as or not real: *dreary rows of sub-Victorian villas* **5** *esp. tech* almost: *subtropical heat*

super- /su:pəʳ‖su:-/ more, larger, greater, or more powerful than usual: *a supertanker* (= a ship that can carry extremely large loads)|*superglue*|*super-rich film stars*|*superheated steam*

sym- /sɪm/ (*the form used for* SYN- *before* b, m, *or* p): *sympathy*

syn- /sɪn/ together; sharing: *a synthesis* (= combining of separate things)

techno- /teknə/ concerning TECHNOLOGY: *technocracy* (= rule by skilled specialists)|*technophobia* (= esp. fear of computers)

tele- /teli, telɪ/ **1** at or over a long distance: *a telescope* (= for seeing a long way)|*telecommunications*|*tele-*

pathy (= sending of thought messages)|*teleshopping* (= using a computer in one's home to order goods) **2** by or for television: *a teleplay*|*a telerecording*

theo- /θɪə/ also **the** /θi/ – *tech* concerning God or gods: *theology* (= study of religion)

thermo- /θɜ:məʊ, θɜ:mə‖θɜ:r-/ also **therm-** /θɜ:m‖θɜrm/ – *tech* concerning heat: *a thermostat* (= for controlling temperature)|*thermostable* (= that does not change when heated)

trans- /træns, trænz/ **1** on or to the far side of: across: *transatlantic flights*|*the trans-Siberian railway* **2** between; INTER-: *trans-racial fostering* **3** (showing a change): *to transform*|*the transmutation of base metal into gold*

tri- /traɪ/ three; three times: *trilingual* (= speaking three languages)|*triangle* (= a shape with three sides and three angles) – see also BI-

ultra- /ʌltrə/ **1** *tech* above in a range; beyond: *ultrasound* (= too high to hear) – compare INFRA- **2** *infml* very; extremely: *an ultramodern building*|*ultracautious*|*ultrasensitive*

un- /ʌn/ **1** (*esp. in adjectives and adverbs*) (showing a negative, a lack, or an opposite) not: *unfair* (= not fair)|*unhappy*|*unfortunately*|*unbelief* (= lack of belief) **2** (*esp. in verbs*) (showing an opposite): *The pipe's blocked, we must unblock it.* (= remove what is blocking it)|*to undress* (= take one's clothes off)

USAGE Compare **un-**, **in-**, and **non-**, which all mean 'not'. The difference between them is the degree to which they suggest the idea of something opposite rather than something negative. **Non-** is usually just negative (for example, *nonalcoholic drinks* contain no alcohol), but **un-** is often used to suggest an opposite quality. Compare: *He has applied for a nonscientific job* (= not connected with science) *in the Civil Service.*|*It was very unscientific* (= showing too little attention to scientific principles) *not to measure your results.* Of the three prefixes, **in-** tends most often to suggest opposite qualities. Compare: *their inhuman* (= very cruel) *treatment of political prisoners*|*The archaeologists discovered both human and non-human bones.*

under- /ʌndəʳ/ **1** too little: *underdevelopment*|*undercooked cabbage* **2** going underneath: *an underpass* **3** inner; beneath others: *undergarments* **4** less important or lower in rank: *a head gardener and three under-gardeners*

uni- /ju:nɨ/ one; single: *unidirectional*

up- /ʌp/ **1** so as to be higher: *to upgrade a job* (= make it higher in importance) **2** (*esp. in adverbs and adjectives*) at or towards the top or beginning: *uphill*|*upriver* (= nearer to where the river starts) **3** (*esp. in verbs*) so as to be out of place or upside down: *an uprooted tree*|*She upended the bucket.* **4** (*esp. in adjectives and adverbs*) at or towards the higher or better part: *upmarket* (= meeting the demand of the higher social groups) – compare DOWN-

vice- /vaɪs/ the person next in official rank below the stated person, who has the power to represent them or act in place of them: *the Vice-President of the USA*|*the vice-captain of the cricket team*

Word endings

-ability /əbɪlɨti/ also **-ibility**— (*in nouns formed from adjectives ending in* -able- *and* -ible): *manageability*|*suitability*

USAGE This ending is commonly used with words that mean "that can be ——*ed*" (-ABLE (1)), but is much less usual with words that mean "having a quality" (-ABLE (2)) – you cannot say *comfortability.*

-able /əbəl/ also **-ible**— (*in adjectives*) **1** that can be ——*ed*: *washable* (= that can be washed)|*unbreakable* (= that cannot be broken) **2** having the stated quality or condition: *knowledgeable* (= knowing a lot)|*comfortable*— **-ably**, **-ibly** (*in adverbs*): *unbelievably*

-ade /eɪd/ (*in* [U] *nouns*) a usu. sweetened drink made from the stated fruit: *orangeade* (= drink made from orange juice)

-age /ɪdʒ/ (*nouns*) **1** the action or result of ——*ing*: *to allow for shrinkage* (= getting smaller)|*several breakages* (= things broken) **2** the cost of ——*ing*: *Postage is extra.* **3** the state or rank of a ——: *a peerage* (= noble rank)

-aholic /əhɒlɪk‖əhɔ:-, əhɔ:-, əhɑ:-/ *infml* (*in nouns and adjective*:) (a person) who cannot stop doing or using the stated thing: *a workaholic* (= who loves working and cannot stop)|*a computaholic*

-al /əl, əl/ **1** also **-ial**— (*in adjectives*) of or concerning ——*s*: *coastal waters* (= near the coast)|*political* **2** (*in nouns*) the action of ——*ing*: *her arrival* (= arriving)|*a refusal*

-an /ən, ən/ also **-earn**, **-ian**— **1** (*in adjectives and nouns*) (someone or something) of, from, or connected with ——: *an American* (= person from America)|*the pre-Tolstoyan novel* **2** (*in nouns*) someone skilled in or studying the stated subject: *a historian* (= someone who studies history)

-ana /ɑ:nə‖ænə/ (*in nouns*) -IANA: *Americana*

-ance, -ence /əns, ɛns/ (*in nouns*) (an example of) the action, state, or quality of ——*ing* or of being ——: *his sudden appearance* (= he appeared suddenly)|*her brilliance* (= she is BRILLIANT)|*several performances*

-ancy, -ency /ənsi, ɛnsi/ (*in nouns*) the state or quality of ——*ing* of being ——: *expectancy* (= state of expecting)|*hesitancy*|*complacency* (= being COMPLACENT)

-ant, -ent /ənt, ɛnt/ (*in nouns and adjectives*) (someone or something) that ——*s*: *a servant* (= someone who serves others)|*disinfectant* (= substance for killing germs)|*expectant* (= expecting)|*pleasant* (= pleasing)

-ar /əʳ, ɑ:ʳ/ **1** (*in nouns*) (*the form used for* -ER *in certain words*): *a beggar* (= person who begs) **2** (*in adjectives*) of or concerning ——*s*: *muscular strength* (= strength of muscles)|*molecular* —see also -ULAR

-archy /əki, ɑ:ki‖ərki, ɑ:rki/ *tech* (*in nouns*) government; rule: *anarchy* (= no government)|*monarchy* (= with one ruler)

-ard /əd‖ərd/ (*in nouns*) someone with the stated usu. bad quality; someone who is usu. or always ——: *a drunkard*

-arian /eəriən/ (*in adjectives and nouns*) (of or for) someone who is connected with or believes in the stated thing: *a vegetarian restaurant* (= for people who do not eat meat)|*a librarian* (= someone who works in a library) —see also -GENARIAN

-ary[1] /əri, ɛri‖eri/ (*in adjectives*) of or concerning ——*s*: that is a ——: *planetary bodies* (= that are PLANETS)|*customary*

-ary[2] (*in nouns*) **1** someone connected with a ——: *the beneficiaries of the will* (= people who profit from it)|*a functionary* (= someone with duties) **2** a thing or place connected with or containing ——*s*: *a library* (= containing books)|*an ovary* (= containing eggs)

-ate /ɨt, eɪt/ **1** (*in adjectives*) full of or showing the stated quality: *very affectionate* (= showing love) **2** (*in verbs*) to cause to become ——: *to activate* (= make active)|*to regulate* (= make regular) **3** (*in nouns*) a group of people with certain duties: *the electorate* (= people who elect; voters)|*an inspectorate* **4** (*in nouns*) the job, rank, or degree of a ——: *She was awarded her doctorate.* (= the degree of doctor) **5** *tech* (*in nouns*) a chemical salt formed from the stated acid: *phosphate* – **-ately** (*in adverbs*): *fortunately*

-athon /əθən‖əθɑ:n/ *infml* (*in nouns*) an event in which the stated thing is done for a very long time, esp. to collect money: *a swimathon*|*a talkathon*

-ation /eɪʃən/ (*in nouns*) the act, state, or result of ——*ing*: *an examination* (= examining) *of the contents*|*the combination of several factors*

-ative /ətɪv/ (*in adjectives*) liking or tending to ——, or showing a liking for ——*s*: *talkative* (= liking to talk a lot)|*argumentative* (= enjoying arguments)|*imaginative* (= showing imagination)

-ator /eɪtəʳ/ (*in nouns*) someone or something that ——*s*: *a narrator* (= someone who tells a story)|*a generator*

(= machine that produces electricity)

-bound /baʊnd/ (*in adjectives*) limited, kept in, or controlled in the stated way: *a fog-bound aircraft/airport* (= unable to operate because of FOG)|*We were snow-bound and couldn't get out of the house.* – see also BOUND[5]

-cide /saɪd/ (*in nouns*) -ICIDE: *genocide* (= killing a whole race of people) —**-cidal** (*in adjectives*) —**-cidally** (*in adverbs*)

-cracy /krəsi/ (*in nouns*) -OCRACY: *bureaucracy* (= government by officials who are not elected)

-craft /krɑ:ft‖kræft/ (*in nouns*) **1** a vehicle of the stated kind: *a spacecraft|a hovercraft|several aircraft* **2** skill of the stated kind: *statecraft* (= skill in the art of government)|*stagecraft* (= skill in acting or directing plays)

-crat /kræt/ (*in nouns*) -OCRAT

-cy /si/ (*in nouns*) **1** the state or quality of being ——: *privacy* (= state of being private)|*accuracy|bankruptcy* **2** the rank or position of a ——: *a baronetcy* (the rank of a BARONET)

-d /d, t/ (*the form used for* -ED *after* e): *baked*

-dom /dəm/ **1** (*in* [U] *nouns*) the state of being ——: *freedom* **2** (*in* [C] *nouns*) **a** the rank of a ——: *He was rewarded with a dukedom.* (= was made a DUKE, a high noble rank) **b** an area ruled by a ——: *a kingdom* **3** (*in* [U] *nouns*) *infml* all the people who share the same set of interests, have the same job, etc.: *officialdom* (= all officials)|*yuppiedom*

-drome /drəʊm/ *rather old-fash* (*in nouns*) a large place for the stated purpose: *an aerodrome* (= an airport)

-ean /iən/ (*in adjectives and nouns*) -AN: *Mozartean* (= of or like Mozart)

-ectomy /ektəmi/ *tech* (*in nouns*) the removing of the stated body part by an operation: *an appendectomy* (= removing the APPENDIX)

-ed /d, ɨd, t/ **1** (forms the regular past tense and past participle of verbs. The past participle form is often used as an adjective.): *I want, I wanted, I have wanted|I show, I showed, I have shown|walked|echoed|a wanted criminal* **2** (*in adjectives*) having a ——: *a bearded man* (= a man with a beard)|*a kind-hearted woman*

■ USAGE **-ed** or **-d** added to the end of a verb to make the past tense or past participle (*fail***ed**, *love***d**) have the sound /d/ except: **a** after verbs ending with the sounds /p, k, f, θ, s, ʃ, tʃ/. Here **-ed** is pronounced /t/, as in *match***ed** /mætʃt/ **b** after verbs ending with the sounds /t, d/. Here **-ed** is pronounced /ɪd/ in British English and /əd/ in American English, as in *need***ed** /'ni:dɨd/. – see also -ING (USAGE)

-ee /i:/ (*in nouns*) **1** someone who is ——*ed*: *the payee* (= someone who is paid)|*a trainee|an employee* **2** someone who is —— or who ——*s*: *an absentee* (= someone who is absent)|*an escapee* (= someone who escapes)

-eer /ɪəʳ/ *often derog* **1** (*in nouns*) someone who does or makes a ——: *an auctioneer* (= someone who runs AUCTION sales)|*a profiteer* (= someone who makes unfair profits)|*a racketeer* **2** (*in verbs*) to perform actions connected with ——*s*: *to profiteer|electioneering*

-en /ən, ən/ **1** (*in adjectives*) made of ——: *a golden crown|wooden seats* **2** (*in vérbs*) to (cause to) be, become, or have ——: *to darken* (= make or become dark)|*to ripen|to strengthen* (= have or give more strength)

-ence /əns, ens/ (*in nouns*) -ANCE: *its existence* (= it exists)|*reference|occurrence*

-ency /ənsi, ensi/ (*in nouns*) -ANCY: *a tendency*

-ent /ənt, ent/ (*in adjectives and nouns*) -ANT: *different|residents*

-er[1] /əʳ/ (forms the comparative of many short adjectives and adverbs): *hot, hotter|dry, drier|My car is fast, but hers is faster|goes faster.* – see also -EST (1)

-er[2] (*in nouns*) **1** someone who ——*s* or who is ——*ing*: *a dancer* (= someone who dances or is dancing)|*the diners* (= people having dinner) **2** something that ——*s*: *a screwdriver* (= tool for driving in screws) **3** someone who makes ——*s*: *a hatter* (= someone who makes hats) **4** someone who lives in or comes from ——: *a Londoner* (= someone from London)|*the villagers* (= people who live in the village) **5** someone skilled in or studying the stated subject: *a geographer* (= someone who studies GEOGRAPHY) **6** something that has ——*s*: *a three-wheeler car* (= with three wheels) – see also -AR, -OR

■ USAGE In expressions like "She is a **dancer**", words ending in **-er** usually suggest that the person who performs the action of the verb does it professionally: One can, however, say "He's a very keen **footballer**/a very good **dancer**" without suggesting that he does it professionally.

-ery /əri, eri/ also **-ry**– (*in nouns*) **1a** the art, behaviour, or condition of a —— or of being ——: *slavery* (= being a slave)|*bravery* (= being brave) **b** a collection of ——*s*: *modern machinery* (= machines)|*in all her finery* (= fine clothes) **2** a place where the stated thing lives or is done, made, or sold: *a rookery* (= where birds called ROOKS live)|*a bakery* (= where bread is baked)|*an oil refinery*

-es /ɨz/ (*the form used for* -S *when added to a word ending with s, z, ch, or* y): *glasses|buzzes|watches|ladies*

-ese /i:z/ **1** (*in nouns and adjectives*) (the people or language) belonging to the stated country or place: *The Viennese* (= people from Vienna) *are so charming.|learning Japanese* (= the language of Japan|*Chinese music* **2** *usu. derog* (*in nouns*) language or words limited to the stated group: *journalese* (= language used in newspapers)|*officialese* (= language used in official or legal writing)

-esque /esk/ (*in adjectives*) **1** in the manner or style of: *Kafkaesque* (= in the style of the writer Franz Kafka, or like the situations or characters in his books) **2** like a ——: *picturesque* (= pleasing to look at)

-ess /es, ɨs/ (*in nouns*) a female ——: *an actress* (= a female actor)|*a waitress|two lionesses*

■ USAGE Many people do not like the use of female forms such as **authoress** and **poetess**. They prefer to use the same word for both men and women: *Sylvia Plath, the well-known American* **poet**|*Iris Murdoch is the* **author** *of many novels.*

-est /ɨst/ **1** (forms the SUPERLATIVE of many shorter adjectives and adverbs): *cold, colder, coldest|dry, drier, driest|Our soap washes whitest.* – see also ER-[1] **2** also **-st**— *old use or bibl* (forms the second person singular of verbs): *thou goest*

-eth /ɨθ/ also **-th**— *old use or bibl* (forms the third person singular of verbs): *he goeth*

-ette /et/ (*in nouns*) **1** a small ——: *a kitchenette* (= small kitchen)|(*infml*) *a snackette* (= a very small meal) **2** a female ——: *an usherette* (= female USHER) **3** not real ——; IMITATION: *flanelette|chairs covered with leatherette*

-ey /i/ (*in adjectives*) (*the form used for* -Y *esp. after* y): *clayey soil*

-fashion /fæʃən/ (*in adverbs*) in the way of a ——; like a ——: *They ate Indian-fashion, using their fingers.*

-fold /fəʊld/ (*in adjectives and adverbs*) of or by the stated number of times or kinds: *A window has a twofold purpose – it allows light into the room and lets people see out.|The value of the house has increased fourfold.* (= it is now worth four times as much as before)

-free /fri:/ (*in adjectives and adverbs*) without ——: *a salt-free diet|a trouble-free journey|We bought the cigarettes duty-free.|They live in the house rent-free.*

-friendly /frendli/ (*in adjectives*) not difficult for ——*s* to use; helpful to ——*s*: *a user-friendly computer|a customer-friendly shopping environment*

-ful[1] /fəl/ (*in adjectives*) **1** full of ——*s*: *an eventful day* **2** having the quality of ——; causing ——: *restful colours|Is it painful?* – **-fully** (*in adverbs*): *shouting cheerfully*

-ful[2] /fʊl/ (*in nouns*) **1** the amount of a substance needed to fill the stated container: *two cupfuls of milk|He smoked a whole packetful of cigarettes.* **2** as much as

can be carried by, contained in, etc. the stated part of the body: *carrying an armful of flowers*|*She drank a few mouthfuls of tea.* **3** a place or space filled with people or things: *a shelf-ful of books*|*a roomful of people*

■ USAGE The plural of nouns ending in **-ful** can be formed in either of two ways. Both **basketfuls** and **basketsful** are correct, but the second is rather old-fashioned now.

-fy /faɪ/ (*in verbs*) -IFY

-gamy /gəmi/ *esp. tech* (*in* [U] *nouns*) marriage to the stated number or kind of people: *bigamy* (= being married to two people)|*monogamy* – **-gamous** (*in adjectives*)

-genarian /dʒəneəriən/ (*in nouns and adjectives*) (someone) who is the stated number of DECADES (= periods of 10 years) old: *an octogenarian* (= between 80 and 89 years old)

-gon /gən; *strong* gɒn‖gən; *strong* gɑ:n/ (*in nouns*) a shape with the stated number of sides and angles: *a hexagon* (= with six sides)|*a polygon* (= with many sides)

-gram /græm/ (*in nouns*) a message delivered as an amusing surprise: *On his birthday we sent him a kissagram.* (= an unknown girl who was paid to deliver him a message and kiss him)

-head /hed/ (*in nouns*) **1** the top of a ——: *a pithead* (= the top of a coalmine) **2** the point of origin of a ——; SOURCE: *a fountainhead*

-high /haɪ/ (*in adjectives*) having the stated height: *The wall was about chest-high.* (as high as one's chest)|*a 7000-metre-high mountain*

-hood /hʊd/ (*in nouns*) the state or time of being (a) ——: *childhood*|*manhood*|*likelihood*

-i /i/ (*plural* **-is** /ɪz/) (*in nouns and adjectives*) (a person or the language) of the stated place, esp. in Asia: *two Pakistanis*|*speakers of Nepali*|*the Israeli army*

-ial /iəl/ (*in adjectives*) -AL (1): *a managerial job* (= with the duties of a manager)

-ian /iən/ (*in adjectives and nouns*) -AN: *Dickensian characters* (= like those in Dickens's books)|*a librarian* (= someone who works in a library)

-iana /iɑ:nə‖iænə/ also **-ana**— (*in nouns*) a collection of objects, papers, etc., connected with ——: *Churchilliana*|*Shakespeariana*

-ibility /ɪbɪlɪti/ (*in nouns*) -ABILITY: *invincibility*

-ible /ɪbəl/ (*in adjectives*) -ABLE: *irreversible*

-ic /ɪk/ **1** (*in adjectives*) of, like, or connected with ——: *photographic* (= of photography)|*an alcoholic drink* (= containing alcohol)|*polysyllabic* (= containing several SYLLABLES)|*pelvic* (= of the PELVIS)|*Byronic* (= like or connected with the poet Byron) **2** (*in nouns*) someone on whom the stated thing has an effect: *an alcoholic* (= someone who cannot stop drinking alcohol) — **-ically** /kli/ (*in adverbs*): *photographically*

■ USAGE There are many adjectives which end in **-ic** and **-ical**. Some can end only in **-ic**: *energet***ic**|*idealist***ic**|*trag***ic**. Some can end only in **-ical**: *grammat***ical**|*hyster***ical**|*mus***ical**. A few can take either ending without changing their meaning: geometr**ic**/*geometr***ical**|*mag***ic**/*mag***ical**|*poet***ic**/*poet***ical**. Some others can take either ending, but with a difference in meaning: *economic* and *economical*|*historic* and *historical*.

-ical /ɪkəl/ (*in adjectives*) -IC (1): *historical* (= of history)|*satirical* – **-ically** (in adverbs): *historically*

-ician /ɪʃən/ (*in nouns*) a skilled worker who deals with ——: *a beautician* (= someone who gives beauty treatments)|*a technician*

-icide /ɪsaɪd/ also **-cide**— (*in nouns*) killer; killing: *insecticide* (= chemical substance for killing insects)|*suicide* (= act of killing oneself) – **-cidal** (*in adjectives*) – **-icidally** (*in adverbs*)

-ics /ɪks/ (*in nouns*) **1** the scientific study or use of ——: *linguistics* (= the study of language)|*electronics* (= the study or making of apparatus that uses CHIPS, TRANSISTORS, etc.)|*acoustics* **2** the actions typically done by ——*s*: *athletics* (= running, jumping, throwing, etc.)|*acrobatics* **3** qualities or events connected with ——: *the acoustics* (= sound qualities) *of the hall*

■ USAGE Words ending in **-ics** usually take a singular verb when they mean a school subject or an area of study: **Acoustics** *is the study of how sound behaves.*|*European* **politics** *is his special subject.* In other cases they usually take a plural verb: *The* **acoustics** *of this hall are terrible.*|*His* **politics** *are left of centre.*

-ide /aɪd/ *tech* (*in nouns*) a chemical compound: *cyanide*|*sulphide*

-ie /i/ *infml* (*in nouns*) -Y[2] (1): *dearie*

-iform /ɪfɔ:m‖ɪfɔ:rm/ *tech* (*in adjectives*) in the shape of a ——; like a ——: *cruciform* (= cross-shaped)

-ify /ɪfaɪ/ also **-fy**— (*in verbs*) **1** to make or become ——: *to purify* (= make or become pure)|*to clarify* (= make or become clear) **2** to fill with ——: *to terrify* (= fill with terror) **3** *infml, often humor or derog* **a** to make ——*s*: *to speechify* (= make speeches, use fine-sounding words) **b** to cause to be like or typical of a —— or the ——: *Frenchified* (= like the French)

-in /ɪn/ (*in nouns*) an activity in which a group of people do something together for a purpose: *a sit-in* (= where people sit in a place to prevent its usual activity)|*a teach-in*

-ine /aɪn/ *esp. fml* or *tech* **1** of or concerning ——*s*: *equine* (= of horses) **2** made of; like: *crystalline*

-ing /ɪŋ/ **1** (forms the present participle of verbs): *They're dancing.*|*to go dancing*|*a dancing bear* —see USAGE **2** (*in* [U] *nouns*) the action or process of the stated verb: *She hates swimming.*|*No Parking* (on a notice, = do not park here) **3** (in [C] *nouns*) **a** a case or example of the stated verb: *to hold a meeting* **b** a product or result of the stated verb: *a beautiful painting* **4** (*in nouns*) something used to —— or used for making ——*s*: *a silk lining*|*ten metres of shirting* (= cloth for shirts)

■ USAGE 1 Adjectives which end in **-ing** show that the noun they describe is the doer or subject of the verb they are formed from: *a* **frightening** *film* (= it frightens people)|*She's an* **interesting** *writer.* (= she interests me)|*It was an* **exciting** *game.* (= it made people feel excited). Adjectives which end in **-ed** show that the noun they describe is the object of the verb they are formed from: *a* **frightened** *child* (= someone or something has frightened him/her)|*an* **interested** *audience* (= the play/concert interested them)|*an* **excited** *crowd* (= the game made them feel excited). 2 When adjectives ending in **-ing** are used in certain combinations, different STRESS patterns give different meanings. Compare: *a* '**sleeping** ˌ*car* (= a special railway carriage where people can sleep) and *a* ˌ**sleeping** '*dog* (= a dog which is sleeping); *a* '**singing** ˌ*bird* (= a special kind of bird which can sing) and *a* ˌ**singing** '*bird* (= a bird which is singing at this moment).

-ion /ən/ (*in nouns*) the act, state, or result of ——*ing*: *the completion* (= completing) *of the task*|*his election* (= he was elected) *to the post*|*several volcanic eruptions*

-ise /aɪz/ *esp. BrE* (*in verbs*) -IZE – **-isation** (*in nouns*)

-ish /ɪʃ/ **1** (*in nouns and adjectives*) (the people or language) belonging to the stated country or place: *Are the British* (= people from Britain) *unfriendly?*|*to speak Turkish* (= the language of Turkey)|*She's Swedish.* (= from Sweden)|*Spanish food* (= from Spain) **2** *often derog* (*in adjectives*) typical of a ——; like a ——: *foolish behaviour* (= typical of a fool)|*Don't be so childish!* (Don't behave in a way unsuitable to an adult.) —compare CHILDLIKE)|*snobbish*|*selfish* **3** (*in adjectives*) to some degree ——; rather ——; quite ——: *youngish* (= not very young, but not old either)|*tallish*|*reddish hair* **4** *infml* (*in adjectives*) about the stated number; APPROXIMATELY: *Come at eightish.* (= at about 8 o'clock)|*He's fortyish.* (= about 40 years old)

-ism /ɪzəm/ (*in nouns*) **1** (a movement or religion based on) the stated principle or the teachings of ——: *socialism*|*Buddhism* **2** an act or the practice or process of ——*ing* or of being ——: *his criticism of my work*

(= he CRITICIZES it)|*her witticisms* (= funny or WITTY remarks) **3** the state or quality of being (a) ——: *heroism* (= being a HERO; bravery)|*magnetism* (= being MAGNETIC) **4** illness caused by too much ——: *alcoholism* **5** the practice of making unfair differences between people because of ——: *sexism* (= making unfair differences between men and women)|*racism*|*heightism* (= against people who are very tall or short)

-ist /ɨst/ **1** (*in nouns and adjectives*) (a follower) of the stated religion or set of principles or ideas: *a Buddhist*|*a Scottish Nationalist*|*her socialist views*|*He's very rightist* (= supports the political RIGHT WING (1)) —compare -ITE (1) **2** (*in nouns*) someone who studies, produces, plays, or operates (a) ——: *a linguist* (= someone who studies or learns languages)|*a novelist* (= someone who writes NOVELS)|*a guitarist* (= someone who plays the GUITAR)|*a machinist* (= someone who operates a machine) —see also -OLOGIST **3** (*in nouns and adjectives*) (someone) making unfair differences between people because of ——: *a very sexist remark* (= making unfair differences between men and women)

-ite /aɪt/ (*in nouns and adjectives*) **1** *something derog* (a follower or supporter) of the stated movement or person: *a group of Trotskyites* (= followers of Trotsky's political ideas)|*the Pre-Raphaelites*|*his Reaganite opinions* —compare -IST (1) **2** (someone) belonging to the stated place or tribe: a *Brooklynite* (= someone from Brooklyn)|*the Israelites in the Bible*

-itis /aɪtɨs/ (*in* [U] *nouns*) **1** a diseased or infected condition of the ——: *tonsillitis* (= infection of the TONSILS) **2** *humor* the condition of having too much of or being too keen on ——: *televisionitis* (= watching too much television)

-itude /ɨtju:d‖ɨtu:d/ also **-tude**— *often pomp* (*in nouns*) the state or degree of being ——: *certitude* (= being certain)|*exactitude*

-ity /ɨti/ also **-ty**— (*in nouns*) the quality or an example of being ——: *with great regularity* (= regularly)|*such stupidities* (= stupid actions or remarks)

-ive /ɪv/ (*in nouns and adjectives*) (somone or something that ——*s* or can ——: *an explosive* (= substance that can explode)|*a detective* (= someone who tries to discover facts about crimes)|*the adoptive parents* (= who ADOPT a child)

-ize also **-ise** *esp. BrE* /aɪz/ (*in verbs*) **1** to cause to be (more) ——; make ——: *to modernize our procedures* (= make them (more) modern)|*Americanized spelling* (= spelling changed into the American system from another system)|*to privatize* (= put back into private ownership) **2** to become (a) ——: *The liquid crystallized.* (= turned into CRYSTALS) **3** *sometimes derog* to speak in the stated way: *to soliloquize* (= speak a SOLILOQUY, to oneself)|*to sermonize* (= speak solemnly, as if in a SERMON) **4** to put into the stated place: *to hospitalize a patient* – **-ization** (*in nouns*): (a) *civilization*

■ USAGE 1 **-ize** is very often used to make new [T] verbs from nouns and adjectives, such as **containerize** (= pack goods in large containers), **hospitalize**, and **finalize**. Some people do not approve of **-ize** being used so much in this way. 2 the form **-ise** is commoner in British English than in American English. But when it is joined on to a word part which is not actually a word, as in **surprise** (**surpr-** is not a word), **-ise** is usually the only spelling in American English as well as in British English. The following words *must* be spelt with **-ise**: **advertise**, **advise**, **chastise**, **circumcise**, **comprise**, **compromise**, **despise**, **devise**, **disguise**, **exercise**, **excise**, **improvise**, **incise**, **merchandise**, **revise**, **supervise**, **surmise**, **surprise**.

-kin /kɪn/ also **-kins** /kɪnz/ – *infml, old-fash or humor* (*in nouns*) (used esp. to children) a small and usu. charming ——: *a lambkin*|*a little babykins*

-latry /lətri/ *tech, often derog* (*in* [U] *nouns*) worship of ——: *Mariolatry* (= worship of the Virgin Mary)

-led /led/ (*in adjectives*) having the stated thing as the most important or effective condition, influence, etc.: *export-led growth*

-less /ləs/ (*in adjectives*) **1** without (a) ——: *a childless couple* (= who have no children)|*It's qute harmless* (= will not harm you)|*He was hatless.* (= wore no hat)|*endless complaints* (= that never end) **2** that never ——*s* or cannot be ——*ed*: *a tireless helper* (= who never gets tired)|*on countless occasions* (= too many to be counted)

-let /lɨt/ (*in nouns*) **1** a small kind of ——: *a booklet* (= small usu. paper-covered book)|*a piglet* (= young pig) **2** a band worn on the stated part of the body: *an anklet* (= worn on the ankle)

-like /laɪk/ (*in adjectives*) like, typical of, or suitable to a ——: *a jelly-like substance*|*childlike simplicity*|*ladylike behaviour*

-ling /lɪŋ/ *esp. old use* (*in nouns*) a small, young, or unimportant ——: *a duckling* (= young duck)|*minor Prussian princelings* (= unimportant princes)

-lived /lɪvd/ (*in adjectives*) lasting or living the stated length of time: *Her enthusiasm was short-lived.* (= did not last long)|*to come from a long-lived family*

-logist /lədʒɨst/ (*in nouns*) -OLOGIST: *genealogist*

-logue ‖also **-log** *AmE* /lɒg‖lɔ:g, lɑ:g/ (*in nouns*) something spoken; talk: *a monologue* (= speech by one person)

-logy /lədʒi/ (*in nouns*) -OLOGY: *genealogy*

-ly /li/ **1** (*in adverbs*) in the stated way: *He did it very cleverly.* (= in a clever way)|*slowly* **2** (*in adverbs*) from the stated point of view: *Politically* (*speaking*) (= from a political point of view) *it was a rather unwise remark.*|*a financially sound proposal* **3** (*in adjectives and adverbs*) (happening) at regular periods of a ——: *an hourly check* (= done every hour)|*They visit monthly.* (= once a month) **4** (*in adjectives*) like a —— in manner, nature, or appearance: *with queenly grace*|*a motherly woman* (showing the love, kindness, etc. of a mother)

-manship /mənʃɪp/ (*in* [U] *nouns*) the art or skill of a person of the stated type: *seamanship* (= sailing skill)|*statesmanship*|*horsemanship* (= skill at horse-riding)

-ment /mənt/ (*in nouns*) **1** the act, cause, means, or result of ——*ing*: *the need for strong government* (= strong governing)|*the replacement* (= replacing) *of obsolete machinery*|*some interesting new developments* **2** the condition of being ——*ed*: *his confinement* (= being shut up) *in prison* – **-mental** (*in adjectives*): *governmental*

-meter /mi:tə^r, mɪtə^r/ (*in nouns*) an instrument for measuring: *an altimeter* (= for measuring the height at which an aircraft is flying)

-metre *BrE*‖**-meter** *AmE* /mi:tə^r, mɪtə^r/ (*in nouns*) the stated part of a metre or a number of metres: *a millimetre*

-monger /mʌŋgə^r‖mɑ:ŋ-, mʌŋ-/ (*in nouns*) **1** someone who sells ——: *a fishmonger* (= someone who sells fish, esp. in a shop) **2** *usu. derog* someone who likes to spread or encourage the stated unpleasant thing: *the rumourmongers* (= people who spread perhaps untrue stories about other people)|*a warmonger*

-most /məʊst/ (*in adjectives*) nearest to ——; most towards ——: *the northernmost town in Sweden* (= the town that is furthest to the north)|*the topmost branches of the tree*

-nd (forms written ORDINAL numbers with 2): *the 2nd* (= second) *of March*|*her 22nd birthday*

-ness /nɨs/ (*in nouns*) the condition, quality, or degree of being ——: *loudness*|*sadness*|*warm-heartedness*|*the many kindnesses you've done me*

-nik /nɪk/ *infml* (*in nouns*) a person who is connected with or keen on ——: *a computernik* (= someone who works with or is very keen on computers)|*a peacenik* (= someone who supports peace)

-ocracy /ɒkrəsi‖ɑ:-/ also **-cracy**— (*in nouns*) **1** government by the stated (sort of) people or according to the stated principle: *democracy* (= government by the people)|*mobocracy* **2** a society or country governed in this way: *the Western democracies* (= countries governed by their people)|*a meritocracy* (= governed

by the people with most ability) **3** the usu. powerful social class made up of ——*s*: *the aristocracy* (= people with noble titles)|(*AustrE*) *the squattocracy* (= rich farmers)

-ocrat /əkræt/ also **-crat**— (*in nouns*) **1** a believer in the stated principle of government: *a democrat* (= someone who believes in government by the people) **2** a member of a usu. powerful or governing social class or group: *a technocrat* (= scientist who controls organizations, etc.)—**-ocratic** (*in adjectives*)—**-ocratically** (*in adverbs*)

-oid /ɔɪd/ *esp. tech* (*in adjectives*) like ——; in the form of ——: *humanoid creatures* (= similar to humans)|*ovoid* (= egg-shaped)

-ologist /ɒlədʒɨst‖ɑ:-/ also **-logist**— (*in nouns*) a person who studies or specializes in the stated branch of science: *a biologist*

-ology /ɒlədʒi‖ɑ:-/ also **-logy**— (*in nouns*) **1** the scientific study of ——: *geology* (= the study of rocks and the Earth)|*climatology* (= the study of CLIMATE)|*Egyptology* (= the study of ancient Egypt)|(*infml*) *futurology* (= the practice of trying to say how the future will develop) **2** qualities relating to the stated science: *The geology of north Devon is particularly interesting.* (= it has interesting rocks, etc.)—**-ological** (*in adjectives*) – **-ologically** /kli/ (*in adverbs*): *geologically interesting*

-or /ə^{r}/ (*in nouns*) (*the form used for* -ER *in certain words*): *an actor* (= someone who acts)|*an inventor*

-ory[1] /ɔri‖ɔ:ri, əri/ (*in nouns*) a place or thing used for ——*ing*: *an observatory* (= where people look at things, esp. the stars)|*a directory* (= book giving lists of information)

-ory[2] (*in adjectives*) that ——*s*: *an explanatory note* (= that gives an explanation)|*a congratulatory telegram* (= that CONGRATULATES)

-osis /əʊsɨs/ **-oses** (*in nouns*) **1** *tech* a diseased condition: *silicosis* (= a lung disease)|*neuroses* (= disorders of the mind) **2** a condition or process: *a metamorphosis* (= change from one state to another)—**-otic** /ɒtɪk‖ɑ:-/ (*in adjectives*): *neurotic*|*hypnotic* – **-otically** /kli/ (*in adverbs*)

-ous /əs/ (*in adjectives*) causing or having ——: *dangerous* (= full of danger)|*spacious* (= with much space)

-phile /faɪl/ also **-phil** /fɪl/ – (*in nouns*) a person who likes ——: *a bibliophile* (= someone who likes books)|*an Anglophile* (= someone who likes England or Britain)

-philia /fɪliə/ (*in nouns*) **1** a liking for ——: *Francophilia* (= a liking for France) **2** *tech* a diseased or unhealthy tendency towards or liking for ——: *haemophilia* (= a tendency to bleed)|*necrophilia* (= a sexual attraction to dead bodies)

-philiac /fɪliæk/ *tech* (*in nouns*) a person suffering from ——PHILIA (2): *a necrophiliac*

-phobe /fəʊb/ (*in nouns*) a person who dislikes or hates ——: *an Anglophobe* (= someone who hates England or Britain)|*a xenophobe* (= someone who hates foreigners)

-phobia /fəʊbiə/ (*in nouns*) **1** a dislike or hatred of ——: *Anglophobia* (= dislike of England or Britain) **2** *tech* a diseased or unhealthy dislike or fear of ——: *claustrophobia* (= fear of being in a small enclosed space)|*aquaphobia* (= fear of water)

-phobic /fəʊbɪk/ *tech* (*in adjectives and nouns*) (of or being) a person suffering from ——PHOBIA (2): *He's* (*a*) *claustrophobic.*—**-phobically** /kli/ (*in adverbs*)

-phone /fəʊn/ **1** (*in nouns*) an apparatus connected with sound and/or hearing, esp. a musical instrument: *earphones* (= for listening to a radio, etc.)|*a saxophone* **2** *tech* (*in adjectives and nouns*) (of or being) a person who speaks the stated language: *Francophone nations* (= where French is spoken)

-proof /pru:f/ **1** (*in adjectives*) treated or made so as not to be harmed by ——*s* or so as to give protection against ——*s*: *a bulletproof car*|*an ovenproof dish* (= that cannot be harmed by heat) **2** (*in verbs*) to treat or make in this way: *to soundproof a room* (= so that sound cannot get into or out of it)

-rd (forms written ORDINAL numbers with 3): *the 3rd* (= third) *of June*|*his 53rd birthday*

-ridden /rɪdn/ (*in adjectives*) **1** suffering from the effect of too much ——: *her guilt-ridden dreams* (= she was feeling very guilty) **2** too full of ——*s*: *mosquito-ridden swamps*

-ry /ri/ (*in nouns*) -ERY: *his sheer wizardry* (= magical skill)

-s /z, s/ **1** (forms the plural of nouns): *a cat and two dogs* **2** (forms the third person singular of the present tense of most verbs): *he plays*|*she sits* **3** *esp. AmE* (*in adverbs*) during (the) ——: *Do you work Sundays?* (= regularly each Sunday)|*Summers we go to the seaside.*

■ USAGE When **-s**, **-'s**, and **-s'** are added to the end of a word (*dog***s**, *come***s**, *John***'s**) they have the sound /z/ except **a** after words ending with the sounds /p, t, k, f, θ/. Here they are pronounced /s/ as in *cat***s** /kæts/. **b** after words ending with the sounds /s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/. Here **-s** is added when the word ends in *-e* (*rose***s**) and **-es** when it does not (*push***es**). After these words, both **-s** and **-es** are pronounced /ɨz/: *rose***s** /'rəʊzɨz/; *push***es** /'pʊʃɨz/. The possessive ending **-'s** has the same sound as **-s**, but is never spelt **-es**. Compare *church***es** (plural), *church***'s** (possessive).

-'s **1** (forms the possessive case of singular nouns, and of plural nouns that do not end in -s): *my sister's husband*|*Mary's generosity*|*yesterday's lesson*|*the children's bedroom*|*the man in the corner's coat* (= the coat belonging to the man in the corner) **2** *BrE* the shop or home of ——: *I bought it at the baker's.* (= at the baker's shop)|*I met him at Mary's.* (= at Mary's house) —see -s (USAGE)

-s' (forms the possessive case of plural nouns): *the girls' dresses* (= the dresses belonging to the girls) —see -s (USAGE)

-scape /skeɪp/ (*in nouns*) a wide view of the stated area, as in a picture: *the impressive cityscape of New York*|*some old Dutch seascapes* (= pictures of the sea)

-ship /ʃɪp/ (*in nouns*) **1a** the position of being a ——: *Full membership* (= being a full member) *of the club costs $35.*|*She was offered the professorship.* (= the job of PROFESSOR) **b** the time during which this lasts: *their long friendship* (= they were friends for a long time)|*during his premiership* **2** the art or skill of a ——: *her peerless musicianship* (= skill in performing or judging music)|*a work of great scholarship* —see also -MANSHIP **3** the whole group of ——*s*: *a magazine with a readership of 9000* (= with 9000 readers)|*The whole membership of the club is/are coming to the meeting.* **4** (forms part of certain titles): *your ladyship*

-smith /smɪθ/ (*in nouns*) a maker of ——*s*: *a gunsmith* (= someone who makes guns)|(fig.) *a wordsmith* (= someone who works with words, e.g. a JOURNALIST) —see also SMITH

-some[1] /səm/ (*in adjectives*) **1** causing or producing ——: *a troublesome boy* (= who causes trouble) **2** liking to ——: *a quarrelsome woman* (= who likes to quarrel)|*frolicsome* **3** able to be ——*ed*; that one would like to ——: *a cuddlesome baby* (= that one would like to hold in one's arms)

-some[2] (*in nouns*) a group of the stated number, esp. of players: *a golf foursome* (= four people playing GOLF together)

-speak /spi:k/ *often derog* (*in nouns*) the special language, esp. slang words, used in the stated business or activity: *oilspeak* (= language used in the oil industry) *computerspeak*

-sphere /sfɪə^{r}/ *tech* (*in nouns*) the air surrounding the Earth at a particular height: *the stratosphere*

-spoken /spəʊkən/ (*in adjectives*) speaking ——*ly*: *a softly-spoken girl* (= who speaks quietly)

-st **1** (forms written ORDINAL numbers with 1): *the 1st* (= first) *prize*|*my 21st birthday* **2** /st/ *old use or bibl* -EST (2): *thou dost* (= you do)

-ster /stə^{r}/ (*in nouns*) **1** a person who is ——: *a youngster* (= a young person) **2** a person who is connected with, deals with, or uses ——*s*: *a trickster* (= someone who

plays deceiving tricks)|*a gangster* (= a member of a GANG)|*a pollster* (= someone who carries out POLLS)

-th /θ/ **1** (forms ORDINAL numbers, except with 1, 2, or 3): *the 17th of June*|*a fifth of the total* —see also -ND, -RD, -ST **2** *old use or bibl* -ETH: *he doth* (= does)

-tion /ʃən/ (*in nouns*) -ION

-tude /tju:d|tu:d/ (*in nouns*) -ITUDE: *disquietude* (= anxiety)|*pulchritude*

-ty /ti/ (*in nouns*) -ITY: *certainty* (= being certain)

-ular /jʊlə^{r}/ (*in adjectives*) of or concerning ——*s*: *glandular fever* (= having an effect on GLANDS|*tubular steel* (= in the form of tubes)

-ule /ju:l/ *esp. tech* (*in nouns*) a small ——: *a granule* (= small grain)|*a spherule* (= small SPHERE)

-ure /jə^{r}/ (*in nouns*) the act or condition of ——*ing*: *the closure* (= closing) *of the factory*|*exposure*

-ville /vɪl/ *old-fash or humor sl, esp. AmE* (*in nouns, formed from adjectives* + s) a place or thing that is ——: *This party is really dullsville.* (= it is very dull)

-ward /wəd‖wərd/ (*in adjectives*) towards the stated direction or place: *our homeward journey* (= our journey towards home)|*a downward movement*

-wards /wədz‖wərdz/ ‖also **-ward** *esp. AmE*— (*in adverbs*) towards the stated direction or place: *We're travelling northwards.* (= towards the north)|*The plane plunged earthwards.*|(*esp. AmE*) *moving gradually downward*

-ware /weə^{r}/ (*in* [U] *nouns*) **1** articles made of the stated material, esp. for use in the home: *glassware* (= glass bowls, glasses, etc.)|*silverware* (= silver dishes, knives, etc.) **2** articles used in the stated place for the preparation or serving of food: *ovenware* (= dishes for use in the OVEN)|*tableware* (= plates, glasses, knives, etc.) **3** things used in operating a computer: *software* (= PROGRAMS)|(*infml*) *liveware* (= people who operate computers)

-ways /weɪz/ (*in adverbs*) in the stated direction: *leaning sideways* (= leaning to the side)

-wright /raɪt/ (*in nouns*) a maker of ——*s*: *a wheelwright* (= someone who makes wheels)|*a playwright* (= someone who writes plays)

-y^{1}, -ey /i/ (*in adjectives*) **1** full of or covered with ——: *dirty hands* (= covered with dirt)|*a hairy chest* **2** tending to ——; that ——*s*: *curly hair* (= hair that curls)|*feeling sleepy* **3** like or typical of ——: *a cold wintry day* (= typical of winter)|*his horsy appearance* (= he looks like a horse) **4** fond of or interested in —— *s*: *a horsy woman* (= who is keen on horses) – **-ily** (*in adverbs*) – **-iness** (*in nouns*)

-y^{2} (*in nouns*) **1** also **-ie**— (used, esp. when speaking to children, to make a word or name less formal, and often also to show fondness): *Where's little Johnny?* (= John|*my daddy* (= father)|*What a nice doggy!* (= dog)|(*BrE*) *wellies* (= WELLINGTONS) **2** an act or the action of ——*ing*: *the expiry date* (= date when something EXPIRES)

5 The Longman Defining Vocabulary

Words used in the definitions in this dictionary

All the definitions in this dictionary have been written using the words in this list. If a definition includes a word that is *not* in the list, that word is shown in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

The Defining Vocabulary has been carefully chosen after a thorough study of all the well-known frequency lists of English words. Furthermore, only the most common and "central" meanings of the words in the list have actually been used in definitions. We have also used a special computer program that checks every entry to ensure that words from outside the Defining Vocabulary do not appear in definitions.

Word class restrictions

For some words in the list, a word class label such as *n* or *adj* is shown. This means that this particular word is used in definitions *only* in the word class shown. So **anger**, for example, is used only as a noun and not as a verb. But if no word class is shown for a word, it can be used in any of its usual word classes: **answer**, for example, is used in definitions both as a noun and as a verb.

Compound words

Definitions occasionally include compound words formed from words in the Defining Vocabulary, but this is only done if the meaning is completely clear. For example, the word **businessman** (formed from **business** and **man**) is used in some definitions.

Prefixes and suffixes

The main list is followed by a list of common prefixes and suffixes. These can be added to words in the main list to form derived words, provided the meaning is completely clear. For example, the word **nervousness** (formed by adding **-ness** to **nervous**) is used in some definitions.

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs formed by combining words in the Defining Vocabulary (for example, **put up with**) are NOT used in definitions in the dictionary, except in a very small number of cases where the phrasal verb is extremely common and there is no common equivalent. So, for example, **give up** (as in *give up smoking*) and **take off** (as in *the plane took off*) are occasionally used.

Proper names

The Defining Vocabulary does not include the names of actual places, nationalities, religions, and so on, which are occasionally mentioned in definitions.

A

a
ability
able
about
above *adv. prep*
abroad
absence
absent *adj*
accept
acceptable
accident
accordance
according (to)
account
ache
achieve
acid
across
act
action *n*
active *adj*
activity
actor, actress
actual
add
addition
address
adjective
admiration
admire
admit
admittance
adult
advance *n, v*
advantage
adventure *n*
adverb
advertise
advertisement
advice
advise
affair
afford
afraid
after *adv, conj, prep*
afternoon
afterwards
again
against
age *n*
ago
agree
agreement
ahead
aim
air *n*
aircraft
airport
alcohol
alike
alive
all *adv. determiner, predeterminer, pron*
allow
almost
alone
along
aloud
alphabet
already
also
although
altogether *adv*
always
among
amount *n*
amuse
amusement
amusing *adj*
an
ancient *adj*
and
anger *n*
angle *n*
angry
animal
ankle
annoy
annoyance
another
answer
ant
anxiety
anxious
any
anyhow
anyone
anything
anywhere
apart
apparatus
appear
appearance
apple
appoint
approval
approve
arch *n*
area
argue
argument
arm
armour *n*
arms
army
around
arrange
arrangement
arrival
arrive
art
article
artificial
as
ashamed
ash
aside *adv*
ask
asleep
association
at
atom
attack
attempt
attend
attendance
attention
attitude
attract
attractive
aunt
authority
autumn
available
average *adj, n*
avoid
awake *adj*
away *adv*
awkward

B

baby
back *adj, adv, n*
background
backward(s) *adv*
bacteria
bad *adj*
bag *n*
bake
balance
ball *n*
banana
band *n*
bank *n*
bar *n, v*
bare *adj*

barrel
base *n, v*
basket
bath *n*
bathe *v*
battle *n*
be
beak
beam *n*
bean
bear
beard *n*
beat *n, v*
beautiful
beauty
because
become
bed *n*
bee
beer
before
beg
begin
beginning
behave
behaviour
behind *adv, prep*
belief
believe
bell
belong
below *adv, prep*
belt *n*
bend
beneath
berry
beside(s)
best *adj, adv, n*
better *adj, adv*
between
beyond *adv, prep*
bicycle *n*
big *adj*
bill *n*
bind *v*
bird
birth
birthday
bit
bite
bitter *adj*
black *adj, n*
blade
blame
bleed
bless
blind
block
blood *n*
blow
blue
board *n*
boat *n*
body
boil *v*
bomb
bone *n*
book *n*
boot *n*
border
boring
born
borrow
both
bottle *n*
bottom *n*
bowels
bowl *n*
box *n*
boy
brain *n*
branch
brass
brave *adj*
bread
breadth
break *v*
breakfast *n*
breast *n*
breath
breathe
breed
brick *n*
bridge *n*
bright *adj*
bring
broad *adj*
broadcast
brother
brown *adj, n*
brush
bucket *n*
build *v*
building
bullet
bunch *n*
burial
burn
burst
bury
bus *n*
bush *n*
business
busy
but *conj*
butter *n*
button *n*
buy *v*
by

C

cage *n*
cake *n*
calculate
calculator
call
calm *adj*
camera
camp *n, v*
can *n, v*
candle
cap *n*
capital *n*
captain *n*
car
card *n*
cardboard
care
careful
careless
carriage
carry
cart *n*
case *n*
castle *n*
cat
catch *v*
cattle
cause
celebrate
cell
cement *n*
cent
centimetre
central
centre *n*
century
ceremony
certain *adj, determiner*
chain
chair *n*
chairperson
chalk *n*
chance *n*
change
character
charge
charm
chase *v*
cheap
cheat
check
cheek *n*
cheer
cheerful
cheese
chemical
chemistry
cheque
chest
chicken *n*
chief
child, children
childhood
chimney
chin
chocolate
choice *n*
choose
church *n*
cigarette
cinema
circle *n*
circular *adj*
citizen
city
civilization
claim
class *n*
clay
clean *adj, v*
clear *adj, v*
clerk
clever
cliff
climb *v*
clock *n*
clockwork
close *adj, adv, v*
cloth
clothes, clothing
cloud *n*
club *n*
coal
coast *n*
coat *n*
coffee
coin *n*
cold
collar *n*
collect *v*
college
colour
comb
combination
combine *v*
come
comfort
comfortable
command
committee
common *adj*
companion
company
compare *v*
comparison
compete
competition
competitor
complain
complaint
complete
compound *n*
computer
concern *v*
concerning
concert
condition *n*
confidence
confident
confuse
connect
conscience
conscious
consider
consist
consonant *n*
contain
contents *n*
context
continue
continuous
contract *n*
control
convenient
conversation
cook
cool *adj*
copper
copy
cord *n*
corn
corner *n*
correct *adj*
cost
cotton
cough
could
council
count *v*
country *n*
courage
course *n*
court *n*
cover
cow *n*
coward
cowardly
crack *n, v*
crash *n, v*
cream *n*
creature
creep *v*
cricket
crime
criminal
critisise
critisize
crop *n*
cross *n, v*
crowd *n*
cruel
cruelty
crush *v*
cry
cultivate
cup *n*
cupboard
cure
curl
current
curse
curtain *n*
curve
custom *n*
customer
cut
cycle *v*

D

daily *adj, adv*
damage
dance
danger
dangerous
dare *v*
daring
dark
date *n*

daughter
day
dead *adj*
deal
dear *adj*
death
debt
decay
deceit
deceive
decide
decimal
decision
declaration
declare
decorate
decoration
decrease
deep *adj*
deer
defeat
defence
defend
definite
degree
delay
deliberate
deliberately
delicate
delight
deliver
demand
department
depend
dependent
depth
descend
describe
description
descriptive
desert *n*
deserve
desirable
desire
desk
destroy
destruction
detail *n*
determination
determined
develop
devil *n*
diamond
dictionary
die *v*
difference
different
difficult
difficulty
dig *v*
dinner
dip *v*
direct
direction
dirt
dirty *adj*
disappoint
discourage
discouragement
discover
discovery
discuss
discussion
dish *n*
dismiss
distance *n*
distant
ditch *n*
divide *v*
division
do *v*
doctor *n*
document
dog *n*
dollar
door
doorway
dot *n*
double *adj, adv, predeterminer, v*
doubt
down *adj, adv, prep*
drag *v*
draw *v*
drawer
dream
dress *n, v*
drink
drive *v*
drop
drown
drug *n*
drum *n*
drunk
dry
duck *n*
dull *adj*
during
dust *n*
duty

E

each
eager
ear
early
earn
earth *n*
east
eastern
easy
eat
economic
edge *n*
educate
education
effect *n*
effective
effort
egg *n*
eight(h)
either
elastic
elbow *n*
elect *v*
election
electric
electricity
electronic
elephant
else
embarrass
emotion
employ *v*
employer
employment
empty *adj, v*
enclose
enclosure
encourage
encouragement
end
enemy
engine
engineer *n*
English
enjoy
enjoyment
enough
enter
entertain
entertainment
entrance *n*
envelope
environment
equal *adj, n, v*
equality
equipment
escape
especially
establish
establishment
even *adj, adv*
evening
event
ever
every
everyone
everything
everywhere
evil
exact *adj*
examine
examination
example
excellent
except *conj, prep*
exchange
excite
excited
exciting
excuse
exercise
exist
existence
expect
expensive
experience
explain
explanation
explode
explosion
explosive
express *v*
expression
extreme
eye
eyelid

F

face
fact
factory
fail *v*
failure
faint *adj, v*
fair *adj*
fairy
faith
faithful *adj*
fall
false *adj*
fame
familiar *adj*
family
famous
fancy *adj*
far
farm
farmer
farmyard
fashion *n*
fashionable
fast *adj, adv*
fasten
fat
fate
father *n*
fault
favour *n*
favourable
favourite *adj*
fear
feather *n*
feature
feed *v*
feel *v*
feeling(s)
fellow *n*
female
fence *n*
fever
few
field *n*
fierce
fifth
fight
figure *n*
fill *v*
film
final
finally
financial
find *v*
fine *adj*
finger *n*
finish
fire
fireplace
firm *adj, n*
first *adv, determiner*
fish
fisherman
fit *adj, v*
five
fix *v*
flag *n*
flame
flash *n, v*
flat
flesh
flight
float *v*
flood
floor *n*
flour
flow
flower *n*
fly *n, v*
fold
follow
fond
food
fool *n*
foolish
foot *n*
football
footpath
footstep
for *prep*
forbid
force
forehead
foreign
foreigner
forest
forget
forgive
fork *n*
form
formal
former
formerly
fort
fortune
fortunate
forward(s) *adv*
four(th)
fox *n*
frame *n*
free
freedom
freeze *v*
frequent *adj*
fresh
friend
friendly
frighten
frightening
from

front *adj, n*
fruit *n*
fulfil
full *adj*
fun
funeral
funny
fur *n*
furnish
furniture
further *adj, adv*
future

G

gain *v*
game *n*
garage *n*
garden
garment
gas *n*
gate *n*
gather *v*
general
generous
gentle
gentleman
get
gift
girl
give *v*
glad
glass *adj, n*
glory *n*
glue
go *v*
goat
god, God
gold
golden
good
goodbye
goods
govern
government
grace
graceful
gradual
grain
gram
grammar
grand *adj*
grandfather
grandmother
grass *n*
grateful
grave *n*
great
green
greet
greeting
grey *adj, n*
grief
grieve
ground *n*
group *n*
grow
growth
guard
guess
guest
guidance
guide
guilt
gun *n*

H

habit
habitual
hair
hairy
half
hall
hammer *n*
hand
handkerchief
handle
hang *v*
happen *v*
happy
hard
harden
hardly
hardship
harm
harmful
harmless
hasty
hat
hate *v*
hatred
have
he
head *adj, n*
health
healthy
hear
heart
heat
heaven
heavy *adj*
heel
height
help
helpful
hen
her(s)
here
herself
hide *v*
high *adj, adv*
hill
him
himself
hire
his
history
hit
hold
hole
holiday
hollow *adj*
holy
home *adv, n*
honest
honesty
honour *n*
honourable
hook *n*
hope
hopeful
hopeless
horizon
horn
horse *n*
hospital
host *n*
hot *adj*
hotel
hour
hourly
house *n*
how *adv*
human
humorous
humour
hundred(th)
hunger *n*
hungry
hunt *v*
hurry
hurt *v*
husband *n*
hut

I

I
ice *n*
icy
idea
if
ignore
ill *adj*
image
imaginary
imagination
imagine
immediate
importance
important
improve
improvement
in *adv, prep*
include
including
income
increase
independent
indoor(s)
industrial
industry
infect
infection
infectious
influence
influential
inform
information
ink *n*
inner
inquire
inquiry
insect
inside
instead
institution
instruct
instruction
instrument
insurance
insure
intend
intention
interest
interesting
international *adj*
interrupt
interruption
into
introduce
introduction
invent
invention
invitation
invite
involve
inwards
iron *adj, n*
island
it *pron*
its
itself

J

jaw *n*
jealous
jealousy
jelly
jewel
jewellery
job
join
joint
joke
journey *n*
joy
judge
judgment
juice
jump
just
justice

K

keen
keep *v*
key *n*
kick
kill *v*
kilo
kilogram
kilometre
kind
king
kingdom
kiss
kitchen
knee *n*
kneel
knife *n*
knock
knot
know *v*
knowledge

L

labour *n*
lack
ladder *n*
lady
lake
lamb
lamp
land
language
large
last *adv, determiner, v*
late
lately
laugh
laughter
law
lawyer
lay *v*
lazy
lead /led/ *n*
lead /li:d/ *v*
leaf *n*
lean *v*
learn
least
leather
leave *v*
left
leg *n*
legal
lend
length
less *adv, determiner, pron*
lesson
let *v*
letter
level *adj, adv, n*
library
lid
lie
life
lift
light
lightning
like *prep, v*
likely
limb
limit
line *n*
lion
lip
liquid

list *n*
listen *v*
literature
litre
little
live *v*
load
loaf *n*
local *adj*
lock
lodging(s)
log *n*
lonely
long *adj, adv*
look
loose *adj*
lord *n*
lose
loss
lot
loud
love
low *adj*
lower *v*
loyal
loyalty
luck *n*
lump *n*
lung

M

machine *n*
machinery
mad
magazine
magic
magician
mail
main *adj*
make *v*
male
man *n*
manage
manager
manner
many
map *n*
march
mark
market *n*
marriage
marry
mass *n*
master *n*
mat
match
material
matter
may *v*
me
meal
mean *v*
meaning *n*
means
measure
meat
medical *adj*
medicine
meet *v*
meeting
melt
member
memory
mend *v*
mental
mention *v*
merry
message
messenger
metal *n*
method
metre
metric
microscope
middle *adj, n*
might *v*
mile
military *adj*
milk
million(th)
mind
mine *n, pron*
mineral
minister *n*
minute *n*
mirror *n*
miss *v*
mist *n*
mistake
mix *v*
mixture
model *n*
modern *adj*
moment
money
monkey *n*
month
monthly *adj, adv*
moon *n*
moral *adj*
morals
more
morning
most
mother *n*
motor *adj, n*
mountain
mouse
mouth *n*
move *v*
much
mud
multiply
murder
muscle *n*
music
musician
must *v*
my
myself
mysterious
mystery

N

nail
name
narrow *adj*
nasty
nation
national *adj*
nature
naval
navy
near *adj, adv, prep*
nearly
neat
necessary
neck
need
needle *n*
negative
neighbour
neighbourhood
neither
nerve *n*
nervous
nest *n*
net *n*
network *n*
never
new
news
newspaper
next *adj, adv*
nice
night
nine
ninth
no *adv, determiner*
noble *adj*
nobleman
noise *n*
none *pron*
nonsense
no one
nor
north
northern
nose *n*
not
note
nothing
notice
noun
now
nowhere
number *n*
nurse
nut
nylon

O

obedience
obedient
obey
object *n*
obtain
occasion *n*
ocean
o'clock
odd
of
off *adv, prep*
offence
offend
offensive *adj*
offer
office
officer
official
often
oil
old
old-fashioned
on *adv, prep*
once *adv*
one
oneself
onion
only
open *adj, v*
operate
operation
opinion
opponent
oppose
opposite
opposition
or
orange
order
ordinary
organ
organization
origin
other
otherwise
ought
our(s)
ourselves
out *adj, adv*
outdoor(s)
outer
outside
over *adv, prep*
owe
owing to
own *determiner, pron, v*
oxygen

P

pack *v*
packet
page *n*
pain *n*
painful
paint
painting
pair *n*
palace
pale *adj*
pan *n*
paper *n*
parallel *adj, n*
parcel *n*
parent *n*
park
parliament
part *n*
participle
particular *adj*
partner *n*
party *n*
pass *v*
passage
passenger
past
pastry
path
patience
patient *adj*
pattern *n*
pause
pay
payment
peace
peaceful
pen *v*
pence
pencil *n*
people *n*
pepper *n*
per
perfect *adj*
perform
perhaps
period *n*
permanent
permission
permit *v*
person
personal
persuade
pet *n*
petrol
photograph
photography
phrase *n*
physical
piano *n*
pick *v*
picture *n*
piece *n*
pig *n*
pile
pilot
pin
pink *adj, n*
pipe *n*
pity
place
plain *adj, n*
plan
plane *n*
plant
plastic
plate *n*

play
pleasant
please
pleased
pleasure *n*
plenty *pron*
plural
pocket *n*
poem
poet
poetry
point
pointed
poison
poisonous
pole *n*
police *n*
polish
polite
political
politician
politics
pool *n*
poor
popular
popularity
population
port *n*
position *n*
positive
possess
possession
possible *adj*
possibly
possibility
post
pot *n*
potato
pound *n*
pour
powder *n*
power *n*
powerful
practical
practice
practise
praise
pray
prayer
precious *adj*
prefer
preparation
prepare
presence
present *adj, n*
preserve *v*
president
press *v*
pressure *n*
pretend
pretty *adj*
prevent
previous
price *n*
prickly
pride *n*
priest
prince
principle
print
prison
prisoner
private *adj*
prize *n*
probably *adj*
probability
problem
process *n*
procession
produce *v*
product
production
profession
profit *n*
programme
promise
pronounce
pronunciation
proof *n*
proper
property
proposal
protect
protection
protective
protest
proud
prove
provide
provision(s)
public
pull
pump
punish
punishment
pupil
pure
purple
purpose *n*
push
put

Q

quality
quantity
quarrel
quarter *n*
queen *n*
question
quick *adj*
quiet *adj, n*
quite

R

rabbit *n*
race
radio *n*
railway
rain
raise *v*
range *n*
rank *n*
rapid *adj*
rare
rat *n*
rate *n*
rather
raw *adj*
reach
react
reaction
read *v*
ready *adj*
real
realize
really
reason
reasonable
receive
recent
recently
recognition
recognize
record *n, v*
red
reduce
reduction
refusal
refuse *v*
regard
regular *adj*
related
relative
relation
relax
religion
religious
remain
remark *n*
remember
remind
remove *v*
rent
repair
repeat *v*
replace
reply
report
represent
representative
republic
request
respect
respectful
responsible
rest
restaurant
restrict
result
return *n, v*
reward
rice
rich
rid
ride
right *adj, adv, n*
ring
ripe
rise *v*
risk
river
road
rob
rock *n*
rod
roll *v*
roof *n*
room *n*
root *n*
rope *n*
rose
rough *adj*
round *adj, adv, prep*
row *n, v*
royal *adj*
rub *v*
rubber
rude
ruin
rule
ruler
run
rush

S

sad
safe *adj*
safety
sail
sale
salt *adj, n*
same
sand *n*
satisfaction
satisfactory
satisfy
save *v*
say *v*
scale *n*
scatter *v*
scene
scenery
school *n*
science
scientific
scientist
scissors
screw
sea
search
season *n*
seat
second *adv, determiner, n, pron*
secrecy
secret
secretary
see *v*
seed *n*
seem
seize
sell *v*
send
sensation
sense *n*
senseless
sensible
sensitive
sentence *n*
separate *adj, v*
serious
servant
serve
service *n*
set *n, v*
settle *v*
seven(th)
several
severe
sew
sex *n*
sexual
shade
shadow *n*
shake
shall
shame *n*
shape
share
sharp *adj*
she
sheep
sheet
shelf
shell *n*
shelter
shield *n*
shine *v*
ship *n*
shirt
shock *n, v*
shoe *n*
shoot *v*
shop
shopkeeper
shore *n*
short *adj*
shot *n*
should
shoulder *n*
shout
show *n, v*
shut
sick *adj*
side *adj, n*
sideways
sight *n*
sign
signal
signature
silence *n*
silent
silk
silly *adj*
silver
similar

similarity
simple
since
sincere
sing
single *adj*
singular
sink *v*
sister
sit
situation
six(th)
size *n*
skilful
skill
skin *n*
skirt *n*
sky *n*
slave *n*
sleep
slide *v*
slight *adj*
slip *v*
slippery
slope
slow
small
smell
smile
smoke
smooth *adj*
snake *n*
snow
so
soap *n*
social *adj*
society
sock *n*
soft
soil *n*
soldier *n*
solemn
solid
some *determiner, pron*
somehow
someone
something
sometimes
somewhere
son
song
soon
sore *adj*
sorrow *n*
sorry
sort *n*
soul
sound *n, v*
soup
sour *adj*
south
southern
space *n*
spacecraft
spade
speak
spear *n*
special *adj*
specialist
specific
speech
speed *n*
spell *v*
spend
spin *v*
spirit *n*
spite *n*
splendid
split *v*
spoil *v*
spoon *n*
sport *n*
spot *n*
spread *v*
spring
square *adj, n*
stage *n*
stair
stamp
stand *v*
standard
star *n*
start
state
statement
station *n*
stay
steady *adj*
steal *v*
steam *n*
steel *n*
steep *adj*
stem *n*
step
stick
sticky
stiff *adj*
still *adj, adv*
sting
stitch
stomach *n*
stone *n*
stop
store
storm *n*
story
straight *adj, adv*
strange
stranger
stream *n*
street
strength
stretch
strike *v*
string *n*
stroke *n*
strong
structure *n*
struggle
student
study
stupid
style *n*
subject *n*
substance
subtract
succeed
success
successful
such
suck *v*
sudden
suffer
sugar *n*
suggest
suit
suitable
sum *n*
summer *n*
sun *n*
supper
supply *n, v*
support
suppose
sure *adj*
surface *n*
surprise
surround *v*
swallow *v*
swear
sweep *v*
sweet
swell *v*
swim
swing
sword
sympathetic
sympathy
system

T

table *n*
tail *n*
take *v*
talk
tall
taste
tax
taxi *n*
tea
teach
team *n*
tear /teəʳ/ *v*
tear /tɪəʳ/ *n*
technical
telephone
television
tell
temper *n*
temperature
temple
tend
tendency
tender *adj*
tennis
tense *n*
tent
terrible
terror
test
than
thank
that *conj, determiner, pron*
the
theatre
their(s)
them
themselves
then *adv*
there
therefore
these
they
thick *adj*
thief
thin *adj*
thing
think *v*
third
thirst *n*
thirsty
this *determiner, pron*
thorough
those
though
thought
thousand(th)
thread *n*
threat
threaten
three
throat
through *adv, prep*
throw
thumb *n*
thunder
thus
ticket *n*
tidy *adj, v*
tie
tiger
tight *adj*
time *n*
timetable *n*
tin
tire *v*
title *n*
to
tobacco
today
toe *n*
together
tomorrow
tongue
tonight
too
tool *n*
tooth
top *adj, n*
touch
tour
tourist
towards
tower *n*
town
toy *n*
track
trade *n*
traffic *n*
train
translate
transparent
trap
travel
treat *v*
treatment
tree
tremble *v*
tribe
trick *n, v*
trip *n*
tropical
trouble
trousers
true *adj*
trunk
truth
trust
try *v*
tube
tune *n*
turn
twice
twist
type *n*
typical
tyre

U

ugly
uncle
under *prep*
understand
undo
uniform *n*
union
unit
unite
universal
universe
university
until
up *adj, adv, prep*
upper *adj*
upright *adj, adv*
upset *v*
upside down
upstairs *adj, adv*
urge
urgent
us
use
useful
useless
usual

V

valley
valuable *adj*
value *n*
variety
various
vary
vegetable
vehicle
verb
very *adv*
victory
view *n*
village
violence
violent
visit
voice *n*
vote
vowel
voyage *n*

W

wages
waist
wait *v*
waiter
wake *v*
walk
wall *n*
wander
want *v*
war *n*
warm *adj, v*
warmth
warn
wash
waste
watch
water
wave
way
we
weak
wealth
weapon
wear *v*
weather *n*
weave *v*
wedding
week
weekly *adj, adv*
weigh
weight *n*
welcome
well *adj, adv, n*
west
western *adj*
wet *adj*
what
whatever
wheat
wheel *n*
when *adv, conj*
whenever
where
whether
which
whichever
while *conj*
whip
whisper
whistle
white
who
whoever
whole
why
wicked
wide *adj, adv*
widespread
width
wife
wild *adj, adv*
will
willing
win *v*
wind /wɪnd/*n*
wind /waɪnd/*v*
window
wine *n*
wing *n*
winter *n*
wire *n*
wise *adj*
wisdom
wish
with
within *prep*
witness *n*
without *prep*
woman
wonder *n, v*
wood
wooden
wool
woollen
word *n*
work
world
worm *n*
worry
worse
worst
worship
worth
worthy (of)
would
wound *n, v*
wrap *v*
wreck
wrist
write
wrong *adj, adv, n*
wrongdoing

Y

yard
year
yearly
yellow *adj, n*
yes
yesterday
yet
you
young
your(s)
yourself
youth

Z

zero

Prefixes and suffixes that can be used with words in the Defining Vocabulary

-able	dis-	-ful	-ion	-ize	-ness	-ship
-al	-ed	-ible	ir-	-less	non-	-th
-an	-en	-ic	-ish	-like	-or	un-
-ance	-ence	-ical	-ist	-ly	-ous	-ward(s)
-ar	-er	im-	-ity	-ment	re-	-work
-ate	-ery	in-	-ive	mid-	-ry	-y
-ation	-ess	-ing	-ization	mis-	self-	

6 Irregular verbs

verb	past tense	past participle
abide	abided, abode	abided
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke, awakened	awoken
be	*see Table 7*	
bear	bore	borne
beat	beat	beaten, beat
become	became	become
befall	befell	befallen
beget	begot (*also* begat *bibl*)	begotten
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
bend	bent	bent
bereave	bereft, bereaved	bereft, bereaved
beseech	besought, beseeched	besought, beseeched
beset	beset	beset
bestride	bestrode	bestridden
bet	bet, betted	bet, betted
betake	betook	betaken
bethink	bethought	bethought
bid	bade, bid	bid, bidden
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
bless	blessed, blest	blessed, blest
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burn	burned, burnt	burned, burnt
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
can	*see dictionary entry*	
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
chide	chided, chid	chid, chidden
choose	chose	chosen
cleave	cleaved, cleft, clove	cleaved, cleft, cloven
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
could	*see dictionary entry*	
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt /delt/	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived, (*AmE*) dove	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed, dreamt	dreamed, dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwell	dwelt, dwelled	dwelt, dwelled
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbear	forbore	forborne
forbid	forbade, forbad	forbidden
forecast	forecast	forecast
foresee	foresaw	foreseen
foretell	foretold	foretold
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forgo	forwent	forgone
forsake	forsook	forsaken
forswear	forswore	forsworn
freeze	froze	frozen
gainsay	gainsaid	gainsaid
get	got	got (*also* gotten *AmE*)
gird	girded, girt	girded, girt
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hamstring	hamstrung	hamstrung
hang	hung, hanged	hung, hanged
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
heave	heaved, hove	heaved, hove
hew	hewed	hewn, hewed
hide	hid	hidden, hid
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt, (*esp. AmE*) kneeled	knelt, (*esp. AmE*) kneeled
knit	knitted, knit	knitted, knit
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	leaned, (*esp. BrE*) leant	leaned, (*esp. BrE*) leant
leap	leapt, (*esp. AmE*) leaped	leapt, (*esp. AmE*) leaped
learn	learned, (*esp. BrE*) learnt	learned, (*esp. BrE*) learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lit, lighted	lit, lighted
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
may	*see dictionary entry*	
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
might	*see dictionary entry*	
miscast	miscast	miscast
mislay	mislaid	mislaid
mislead	misled	misled
misspell	misspelt, misspelled	misspelt, misspelled

verb	past tense	past participle
misspend	misspent	misspent
mistake	mistook	mistaken
misunderstand	misunderstood	misunderstood
mow	mowed	mown, mowed
outbid	outbid	outbid
outdo	outdid	outdone
outgrow	outgrew	outgrown
outrun	outran	outrun
outshine	outshone	outshone
overbear	overbore	overborne
overcast	overcast	overcast
overcome	overcame	overcome
overdo	overdid	overdone
overhang	overhung	overhung
overrun	overran	overrun
oversee	oversaw	overseen
oversleep	overslept	overslept
overtake	overtook	overtaken
overthrow	overthrew	overthrown
partake	partook	partaken
pay	paid	paid
prove	proved	proved (*also* proven AmE)
put	put	put
read	read /red/	read /red/
rebind	rebound	rebound
rebuild	rebuilt	rebuilt
recast	recast	recast
redo	redid	redone
relay	relaid	relaid
remake	remade	remade
rend	rent	rent
repay	repaid	repaid
rerun	reran	rerun
reset	reset	reset
retell	retold	retold
rewind	rewound	rewound
rewrite	rewrote	rewritten
rid	rid, ridded	rid, ridded
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw	sawed	sawn, sawed
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew	sewed	sewn, sewed
shake	shook	shaken
shall	*see dictionary entry*	
shave	shaved	shaved
shear	sheared	shorn, sheared
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone, shined	shone, shined
shoe	shod	shod
shoot	shot	shot
should	*see dictionary entry*	
show	showed	shown, showed
shrink	shrank, shrunk	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank, sunk	sunk
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
slit	slit	slit
smell	(*esp. BrE*) smelt, (*esp. AmE*) smelled	(*esp. BrE*) smelt, (*esp. AmE*) smelled
smite	smote	smitten
sneak	sneaked (*also* snuck *AmE*)	sneaked (*also* snuck *AmE*)
sow	sowed	sown, sowed
speak	spoke	spoken
speed	sped, speeded	sped, speeded
spell	(*esp. BrE*) spelt, (*esp. AmE*) spelled	(*esp. BrE*) spelt, (*esp. AmE*) spelled
spend	spent	spent
spill	(*esp. BrE*) spilt, (*esp. AmE*) spilled	(*esp. BrE*) spilt, (*esp. AmE*) spilled
spin	spun, span	spun
spit	spat (*also* spit *AmE*)	spat (*also* spit *AmE*)
split	split	split
spoil	spoiled, spoilt	spoiled, spoilt
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang (*also* sprung *AmE*)	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank, stunk	stunk
strew	strewed	strewn, strewed
stride	strode	stridden
strike	struck	struck
string	strung	strung
strive	strove, strived	striven, strived
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swell	swelled	swollen, swelled
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
thrive	thrived, throve	thrived
throw	threw	thrown
thrust	thrust	thrust
tread	trod	trodden, trod
unbend	unbent	unbent
unbind	unbound	unbound
undergo	underwent	undergone
understand	understood	understood
undertake	undertook	undertaken
undo	undid	undone
unwind	unwound	unwound
uphold	upheld	upheld
upset	upset	upset

verb	past tense	past participle
wake	woke, waked	woken, waked
waylay	waylaid	waylaid
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove	woven
wed	wedded, wed	wedded, wed
weep	wept	wept
wet	wetted, wet	wetted, wet
will	*see dictionary entry*	
win	won	won
wind /waɪnd/	wound	wound
withdraw	withdrew	withdrawn
withhold	withheld	withheld
withstand	withstood	withstood
would	*see dictionary entry*	
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written

7 The verb "be"

present

	I	you	she/he/it	we/they
	I am I'm	you are you're	she is, he is, it is she's, he's, it's	we are, they are we're, they're
questions	am I?	are you?	is she? is he? is it?	are we? are they?
negatives	I am not I'm not aren't I?	you are not you're not you aren't	she is not, he is not, it is not she's not, he's not, it's not she isn't, he isn't, it isn't	we are not, they are not we're not, they're not we aren't, they aren't

present participle: being

past

	I	you	she/he/it	we/they
	I was	you were	she was, he was, it was	we were, they were
questions	was I?	were you?	was she? was he?, was it?	were we? were they?
negatives	I was not I wasn't	you were not you weren't	she was not, he was not, it was not she wasn't, he wasn't, it wasn't	we were not, they were not we weren't, they weren't

past participle: been

Short Forms and Labels

Short forms used in the dictionary

abbrev.	abbreviation
adj	adjective
adv	adverb
&	and
cap.	capital
comb.	combination
conj	conjunction
E	East
e.g.	for example
Eng	England
esp.	especially
etc.	etcetera; and so on
fem.	feminine
fig.	figurative
interj	interjection
masc.	masculine
n	noun
N	North
pass.	passive
phr v	phrasal verb
pl.	plural
prep	preposition
pron	pronoun
S	South
sbdy.	somebody
sing.	singular
sthg.	something
US	United States
usu.	usually
v	verb
W	West

Labels used in the dictionary

AmE	American English
apprec	appreciative
AustrE	Australian English
bibl	biblical
BrE	British English
CanE	Canadian English
CarE	Caribbean English
derog	derogatory
dial	dialect
euph	euphemistic
fml	formal
Fr	French
Ger	German
humor	humorous
IndE	Indian English
infml	informal
IrE	Irish English
It	Italian
Lat	Latin
law	legal
lit	literary
med	medical
naut	nautical
nonstandard	
NZE	New Zealand English
old-fash	old-fashioned
old use	
PakE	Pakistani English
poet	poetical
pomp	pompous
rare	
SAfrE	South African English
ScotE	Scottish English
sl	slang
Sp	Spanish
taboo	
tdmk	trademark
tech	technical

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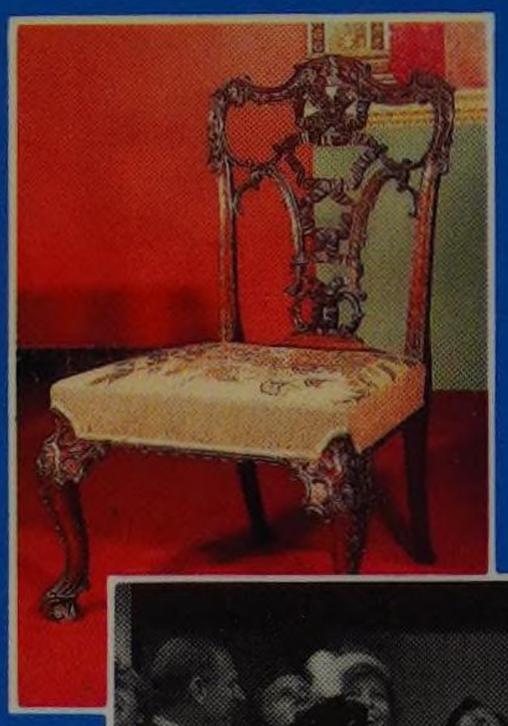
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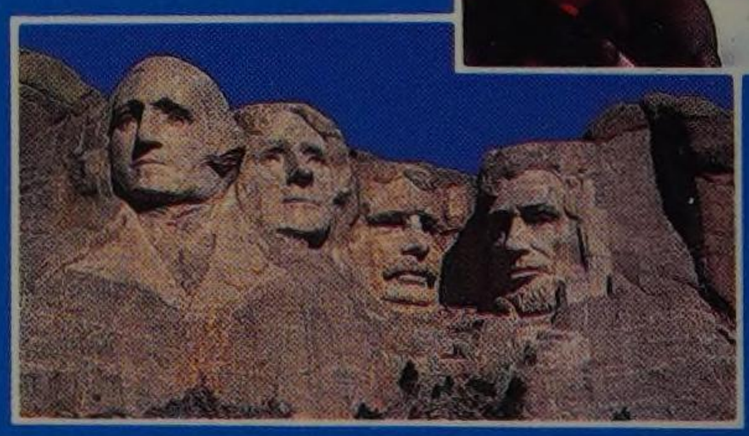
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